

THE CREEK INDIAN MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

OKMULGEE, OKLAHOMA
Oct. 22, 1953.

Dear Mr. Stephen:

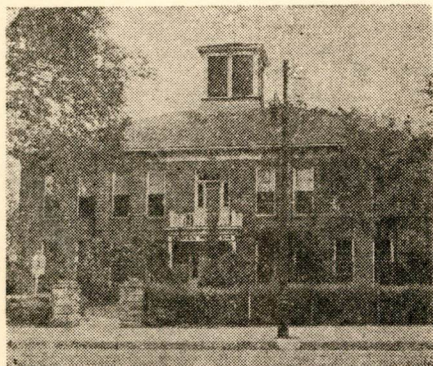
How very kind of you to send me the intensely interesting material about the earlier history of the Creeks! While I have not yet had the time to read and fully digest all of it, I have read enough to whet my appetite for more of it. It is so rare to have a visitor who appreciates our effort to perpetuate and preserve such history, that it causes me to feel doubly grateful to you. I do thank you so very much.

I want you to know, also, how pleased I have been when, from time to time, I have received a card from you from the many interesting places you have visited. I thought of you when we were through Anniston two years ago on our way to Macon, Ga., where we were taking a group of thirty seven Creeks to put on a show at the dedication of the museum at Ocmulgee Fields in the outskirts of Macon. Have you visited that historic place? The underground council chamber which was discovered is estimated to have been used by the Creeks nine hundred years ago. The six hundred acre park in which the museum is located is now known as the Ocmulgee National Monument. It is well worth seeing. Our organization made a small contribution to the museum, ball stick, shell rattles and sofkey spoons.

Let me thank you again, Mr. Stephen, for your thoughtfulness in sending me the Creek material. It is a very worthwhile addition to our collection and I do appreciate it so very much. I hope you will visit us at any time you are in this part of the country.

Sincerely,

Jean R. Rice



CREEK INDIAN COUNCIL HOUSE

Erected 1878 Okmulgee, Oklahoma

Oxford, Ala..

Sept. 23, 1958

Dr. Peter A. Brannon
Dir., Ala.. State
Archives and History Dept.

Dear Friend:

Hope you are well and getting along all right.

Two or three years ago you suggested that I look up the history of Fort Stonewall, at Choctaw Bluff. Here is a brief version of it, including some of the history of the guns that were there.

Here is a bibliography (is that spelled right?) of where I got most of the information:

Page 1, line 5: Choctaw Bluff, in a steamboat schedule in a 1873 Mobile directory, is listed as 10⁴ miles, by water, above Mobile.

Page 1, line 14: Official Army Records, Series I, Vol. XXVI, Part I, Page 654. "...up the Alabama River are several forts, one at Irving Bluff, one at Choctaw Bluff, and one at Mount Vernon arsenal..." This is from a report by a U.S. Army engineer, as of July 25th, 1863.

Page 1, line 15: Information from yourself is that Fort Stonewall was first armed with former U.S. guns from the Mount Vernon arsenal.

Page 1, line 16: Statement of Mr. Ben Stimpson, of Mobile, who said that an ex-slave once stated that there were at one time twentyseven guns there, of which nearly half were brass.

Page 1, line 19: There are a number of references to re-arming and re-occupying Choctaw Bluff early in 1865. Some of them refer to it as having been abandoned and dismantled at some time before this. Official Army Records, Series I, Vol. XLIX, Part I, Pages 598, 636, 636, 636, 823, 865 955 and others.

Page 2, line 4: Official army records, Series I, Volume XLIX, Part I. Page 1055.

Page 2, line 12: Official army records, Series I, Volume XLIX, Part II, Page 1249.

Page 2, line 16: Official army records, Series I, Volume XLIX, Part II, Page 496

Page 2, line 20: Article in Charleston, S.C. News and Courier, repeated what I wrote him about the 7-inch Brooke gun, No. 576, that is now on the battery at Charleston.

Page 2, line 25: Vol. 2 of records of Selma Naval Foundry.

Page 2 line 26; Ethel Armes, "The Story of Coal and Iron in Alabama."

Page 2, line 28: Vol. 2 of records of Selma Naval Foundry.

Page 3, Lines 1 and 6: Information from yourself that "snag Boat" "Twining" handled these guns. The W. J Twining is listed as a "dredge" in the 1889 Mobile City Directory.

The above could, perhaps, be arranged better as footnotes.

Would be happy if you could put this short history in your file about Fort Stonewall.

Have recently heard of an old field gun now at Livingstone, Ala.. It is said to have been left there by Federal forces. It must have been fairly old when the Civil War started, for it has on the muzzle "R.L.B." which are the initials of Major R. L. Baker, who was a member of the US ordnance board in 1849. Am planning to visit Livingstone some time before long, and will send you a description of it, after trying to figure out where it was made.

Do you think that the enclosed history of Fort Stonewall could make a magazine article. Would it be advisable for me to send it to the Montgomery Advertiser or the Alabama Journal? Would also send them a picture of the gun at Jackson, Miss.. ~~Of course~~ I do not know if it would be acceptable to either one.

Tell Mrs. Pate I hope to have her model of the CS Cruiser Alabama done before the end of the year. Have been working in it for a year or more.

With very best regards

Walter W. Stephen
24 Main St.
Oxford, Alabama

750 words

ALABAMA'S FORGOTTEN FORT

Few people in Alabama know today of an ancient Confederate fort, in a lonely land, that overlooks the Alabama River.

One great muzzle-loading cannon remains here, and that gun is, in itself, a story of Southern scientific and metallurgical accomplishment.

The place is Choctaw Bluff, listed in old steamboat schedules as 104 miles above Mobile by water. It is at the western edge of the wild and almost unsettled area in the lower part of Clarke County, Alabama, between the Tombigbee and Alabama Rivers. It is on the country estate of the Stimpson family, lumbermen of Mobile. It was formerly owned by the Carleton family.

Confederate military authorities built here, during the Civil War, a stronghold known as Fort Stonewall. It was designed to protect this approach by water to Selma and its incredible center of ordnance manufacture. Official records mention that it was existing in July, 1863.

Its half a mile of earthworks, ^{^ was armed} with former Federal cannon moved from the Mount Vernon Arsenal. Tradition is that there were at one time twentyseven of these pieces. As nearly half of them were said to have been of bronze it is likely that many were field guns of small caliber.

These guns seem to have been taken away and the fort abandoned when the outcome of military events in Mississippi relieved, for a time the danger of a Federal attack on Mobile.

In August, 1864, however, an enemy fleet captured the entrance to Mobile but were held there for six months by the water and land defences of the city itself.

The fort at Choctaw Bluff was re-occupied and re-armed near the end of the year. Heavy guns were brought up from Mobile. Local tradition says seven. At least two hundred members of the slave labor corps were detailed to work here and a series of rafts connected by an immense iron chain was provided to block the river.

During March, 1865, an overwhelming Federal force attacked Spanish Fort, across the bay from Mobile. Its outnumbered defenders, after three weeks of desperate resistance, evacuated it on April 8th and 9th, while General Lee was surrendering at Appomatox. Mobile capitulated on April 12th. Selma had been captured by an invading army from the other direction on April 2nd.

Confederate troops abandoned Choctaw Bluff on April 14th. United States army Major General Steele reported, on April 27th, that his forces found that the magazines had been blown up and that two heavy Brooke guns he found there were disabled by spikes driven into their touch-holes.

He describes these as "guns of a superior character". They were 7-inch Brooke rifled guns that had been made at the Confederate naval foundry at Selma, Ala., under the supervision of Commander Catesby ap R. Jones, who was already famous for having commanded the Southern ironclad Merrimac during her historic battle with the U.S. Monitor at Hampton Roads, Va., in 1862. This type of cannon was the most powerful, for its caliber, of any ordnance used during the War Between the States and had been originally designed by Confederate naval Captain John M. Brooke at the Tredegar iron Works at Richmond, Va..

The two guns at Choctaw Bluff had been cast, at Selma of charcoal iron that had been changed, in immense reverberatory furnaces, into something like steel, and heavily double-banded with the same material. Each weighed 14,800 pounds and bore the date 1864 and the unmistakable initials of Commander Catesby ap R. Jones. Both had been shipped, by steamboat, from Selma to Mobile on Jan. 6th, 1865, and had then been carried back up the river to Choctaw Bluff. One of them was moved, several decades ago, to Montgomery. It remained

at Maxwell Field for some time and is now mounted at Fort Morgan, Ala., at the entrance of Mobile Bay.

The other gun still remains at Choctaw Bluff, guarding the rolling Alabama River and listening, perhaps, for the far-away voices of young men in gray uniforms.

A government "snag boat", many years ago, recovered from the river in front of the old fort, a 6,4-inch, double-banded, Brooke rifled gun. It weighs 10,800 pounds, the date 1864 and the initials "C. ap R. J.". It had been made at the Selma naval foundry and shipped from there to Mobile on December 21, 1864. It is now located in front of the city hall at Jackson, Ala.. It was, presumably, thrown off the bluff and into the river by Confederate troops on April 14, 1865.

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WESTERN UNION FIVE LETTER EDITION

MOBILE 3, ALABAMA

August 6, 1956

Mr. Walter W. Stephen
24 Main Street
Oxford, Alabama

Dear Mr. Stephen:

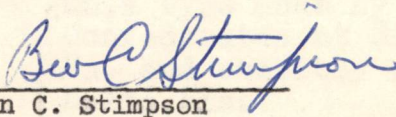
I have your letter before me of July 26th, which was addressed to my father, Mr. Fred Stimpson. At this time my Father is recovering from a serious illness and asked me to answer your letter.

Fort Stonewall is nothing now but a series of breast works and cannon emplacements on the banks of the Alabama River, and is about one-half mile long. At the north end of this old Fort my Father's house is situated. The old cannon that you were writing about was about to fall in the river so we had it pulled back from the river and mounted directly in front of his house. I note that you have already heard from the Archives and History Department of the State of Alabama, therefore, there is not much I can add of interest about old Fort Stonewall, with the exception that we were told by an old ex-slave, that is now dead, that at one time there were twenty-seven cannons at the site. Just what happened to all these cannons we have not been able to learn.

We have tried to fill in on the attached sheet the information that you wanted. It seems to me that several months ago I saw somewhere on the cannon where it had Selma on it, but for the life of me I could not find it yesterday when checking it over. If you are ever in this vicinity it will certainly be a pleasure to have you drop by and see the cannon and old Fort. Choctaw Bluff is twenty miles south east of Jackson, Alabama.

If there is any additional information you want, please do not hesitate to write us.

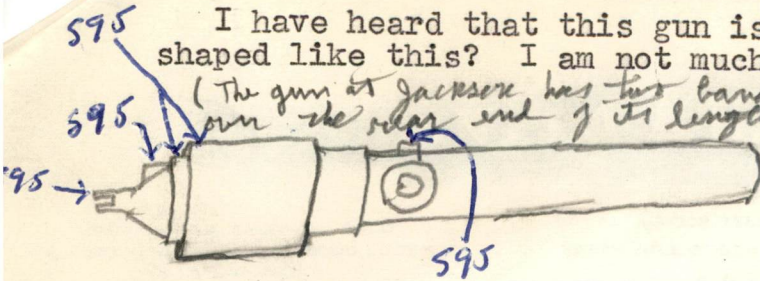
Sincerely yours,


Ben C. Stimpson

GUN AT FORT STONEWALL

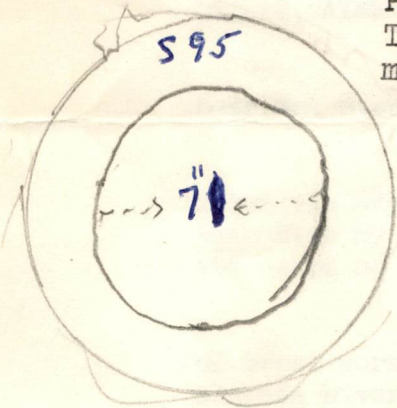
I have heard that this gun is somewhat like the one at Jackson. Is it shaped like this? I am not much of an artist.

(The gun at Jackson has two bands or jackets, one on the other, over the rear end of its length)



Please look at the muzzle and see if the bore is smooth or is it ~~unrifled~~ "rifled" with some kind of spiral grooves or slanted depressions cut in it? Also please measure diameter of bore. (Gun at Jackson is $6\frac{1}{10}$ inches, gun at Fort Morgan is seven inches, gun at Gainesville is 8-inches.) ~~It is~~ ~~is rifled~~

Please write on this any thing stamped on the muzzle. There may be a number with S in front of it. This also may be at other places on the gun.



BORE-RIFLED

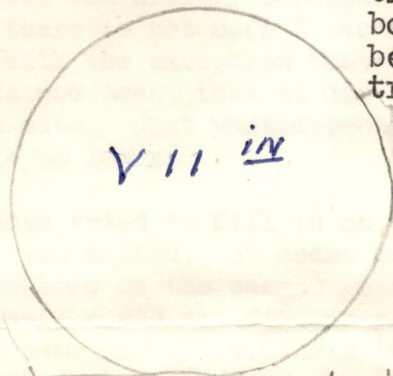
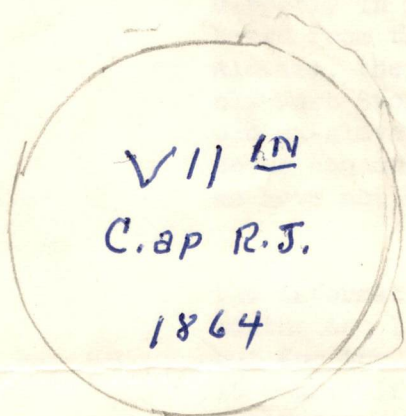
Right trunnion

Left trunnion.

Please put down any number or letters you may find on the trunnions. The diameter of the bore in Roman numerals may be at the top of both trunnions if the gun is rifled.

If it is smoothbore it may be something like "64 PDR"

The weight may be on the left trunnion and the year it was made on the right trunnion.

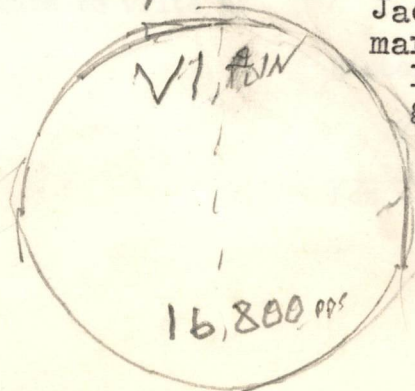
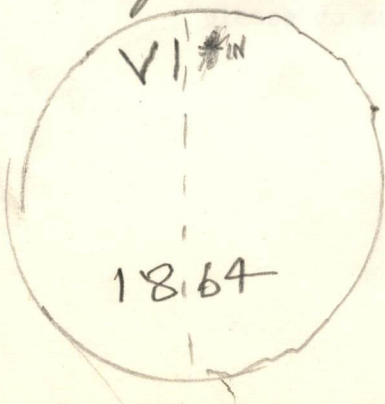


There may be a line down the center of each trunnion-face. - NO

Right trunnion

Left trunnion

For an example the gun at Jackson seems to have these markings on its trunnions. It looks like a Brooke rifled gun, a type made by the Confederates at Richmond, Va. and possibly at Selma, Ala..



Walter W. Stephen
24 Main St
Oxford Ala

Oxford, Ala..

Mar. 25, 1957

Mr. Ben C. Stimpson
Southern Pine and Hardwood Co.,
Box 413, Mobile, Ala..

Dear Friend:

Hope you have been well and getting along all right.

Have been trying for some time to find something about the earlier history of Fort Stonewall. There were a number of references to it in both army and navy civil war records, most of which I have sent to you, that the fort at Choctaw Bluff was in an abandoned and dismantled state at the beginning of 1865 and was re-armed during the first months of this year.

I had been able to find nothing about it earlier than that, and have been looking through a number of volumes of records trying to.

Finally, in the official army records, Series I, Vol. XXVI, Part I, page 644 I found a report to Major General Rosencrans, US Army, from a Captain Wm. E. Morrel, US Army Engineers, in which was this line; dated July 25, 1863:

"...Up the Alabama River are several forts, one at Irving Bluff, one at Choctaw Bluff and one at Mount Vernon arsenal..."

This gives us the fact that Fort Stonewall existed during the summer of 1863. It was perhaps built during that year when there was a state of alarm in southern Alabama because of the sieges of Vicksburg and Port Hudson and because of the fall of New Orleans before this time.

Have found quite a lot of the correspondence of Commander Catesby ap R. Jones (who had charge of the Selma naval gun foundry) in which he gives quite a history of the manufacture of Brooke guns at Selma. They began work on them during the last months of 1863 but did not finish any guns until January, 1864 and for a month or more only finished 7-inch rifled guns, like the one at Chocraw Bluff now. They had serial numbers with the letter S prefixed to them (your gun is S95 and the one at Jackson S96.)

Numbers S5 and S10 were on the iron clad Tennessee that fought in the battle of Mobile Bay and were the first two shipped. S19, another 7-inch rifled gun, was shipped to Mobile during the last week in Jan., 1864. Late in Feb. and in March they began to finish some 6.4-inch Brooke rifled guns, like the one at Jackson, and ship them to Mobile. Not long after that some 8-inch smoothbore Brooke guns were made, of which there were three at Fort Morgan and one or two at Forts Tracey and Huger, up above Spanish Fort. They were made by boring out 6.4-inch guns (I suspect, when the rifling or bore had some slight defect.) Their exterior was the same as the 6.4-inch rifled gun.

There is one of these, No. S26 now at Gainesville, Ala.. Two on the glacis at Fort Morgan were Numbers S33 and S35. I suspect that the one now at Gainesville was at Fort Huger or Fort Tracey, for it is recorded that several heavy guns were removed there to be taken up the river just before these

places surrendered and several boats at that time went up to Gainesville.

Also about May some 10 and 11-inch smooth bore Brooke guns were being made. ~~found by them, 1864, 7 heavy guns had been shipped. S11, Mobile is from the Selma~~
rifle now in Columbus is probably one of the last ones made at Selma.

With best regards

W. M. in St, Oxford, Ala..

Oxford, Ala..

Jan. 11, 1956

Mr. Ben C. Stimpson
Box 413
Mobile, Alabama

Dear Friend:

Hope you had a pleasant holiday season and that this year will be a happy and fine one.

Have run across a little more about the history of the guns at Choctaw Bluff.

My friend Andrew Douglas, an electrical engineer working for the Converse engineering Co. examined the 7-inch Brooke rifled gun now at Fort Morgan and the 6.4-inch one at Jackson and has found the initials C. ap R. J. on each one of them so it appears that they, like your gun, were made at Selma.

Also, as perhaps I have written you, I have found about some other Brooke guns at Columbus, Ga., that also have the initials of Gatesby ap R. Jones on them which are definitely known to have been made at Selma.

Mr. Douglas wrote me that, during a visit he made to Jackson, that Mrs. Dalton Smith of that place and who seems to be a historian told him that there were seven guns at Choctaw Bluff at the end of the civil war and that some of them were thrown into the river. She and the Archives and History Dept. at Montgomery both say that the gun now at Jackson was one of these and was, some years ago, recovered from the river by a dredge boat.

Mr. Peter Brannon, director of the Archives and History Dept., says that it was placed ashore and later it and one of the two 7-inch guns (which are mentioned in official records as having been surrendered at Choctaw Bluff) were placed on the dredge boat and carried up and down the river for a year or two and then unloaded at Montgomery and Jackson.

Incidentally have found out that the 4.2-inch rifled gun now at Fort Morgan in front of one of the wooden buildings near the fort (it has the end of its breech missing) was made in the Confederate foundry at Richmond, Va..

It has J. R. A. and T. F. on its right trunnion. (1862 on its left).

The J. R. A. is the initials of Gen. Joseph R. Smith who owned the Tredegar iron works at Richmond and the T. F. means Tredegar Foundry.

With best regards

Walter W. Stephen
24 Main St.
Oxford, Ala..

Partial List of Steamboat Landings-As of 1873

Alabama River Miles from Mobile	Bigbee River Miles from Mobile
.....	
Arsenal Wharf or Fort Stoddard	45
.....	
Head Mobile River	50
.....	
Sibley's	85
Mobley's	85
Mrs. H. G Davis or Ben Davis	87
James Earl's	88
Frank Earl's	89
McDavid's Woodyard	90
Dean's	90
Driesbach's	90
Sam Kelvin's	91
J. C. Deas' or Prince's	92
Tait's Shoals	93
R. H. Moore	94
Stark's Woodyard	95
J. Boyle's	98
Mrs. Matheson's	101
<u>Choctaw Bluff</u>	104
Rice	105
R. W. Smith's	106
Price or Pott's	108
Mount Pleasant	109
Frank James or R. D. James	110
Kellum's or Howard's	112
Mrs. Erwin's	115
Mrs. N. Jones	116
Gainestown	120
.....	
Claiborne	146
.....	
Lower PeachTree	183
.....Cahaba-	
Cahaba	289
.....	
Selma	308
.....	
Montgomery	403
.....	
Wetumpka	437

Head of Mobile River	50
Nannahubba Bluff	53½
.....	
Wickwire's Gin	63
McIntosh's Bluff	65
Woolsey's Gin	67
Three Rivers	69
Three Rivers Gin	69
Three Rivers Plantation	69
Slade's	70
Bull Pen	75
Frank Payne's	79
Batcheller's	83
<u>Oven Bluff</u>	85
Sawyer's Gin	86
Stalling's Gin Shed	88
<u>Salt Works</u>	90
R. C. Payne	92
.....	
Jackson	110
Demopolis, Lower	242
Demopolis, Upper	243
.....	
Gainesville	315
.....	
Cotton Gin Port	480

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WESTERN UNION FIVE LETTER EDITION

MOBILE, ALABAMA

October 10 - 1956

Mr. Walter W. Stephen,
24 Main Street,
Oxford, Alabama.

Dear Mr. Stephen:

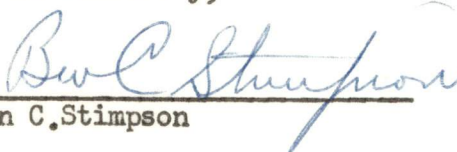
Certainly do appreciate all the wonderful information you accumulated for us.

First time I have the opportunity I'm going to get a mine detector and see what can be found around the old Fort. As far as I know, nothing has ever been found in the area.

You mention the Salt Works below Jackson and out from Oven Bluff. The old Salt Works is on a section of land owned by the State of Alabama and at the present time is in the middle of a 5000 acre Wildlife Sanctuary. Right now the only thing that can be seen of the old Salt Works is the salt springs with several hollow Cypress logs in them. Apparently they got the salt out thru these hollow logs; just how they did it I do not know. If you're ever in the area we would be delighted to take you to see the old Salt Works.

Again I would like to thank you for all the information you sent us. Best regards!

Yours sincerely,


Ben C. Stimpson

Oxford, Ala.

Oct. 6, 1956

Mr. Ben C. Stimpson
Southern Pine and Hardwood Co.,
Box 413, Mobile, Ala.

Dear Mr. Stimpson:

Am enclosing some notes I have gathered by searching an incomplete set of official army records of the civil war to which I have access. I wrote to the National Archives Dept. at Washington asking for information about the armament at ~~Cedar-R~~ Choctaw Bluff but they replied that none could be found.

I marked one paragraph on page 2 of the notes, in which a Federal General Steele reports,

"...The enemy's works at Choctaw Bluff were evacuated soon after the fall of Mobile. The magazines were blown up and the two ~~9~~ 9-inch Brooke guns that constituted its armament were spiked. These guns, being of a superior quality, were left with a view of shipping them on the return of the fleet..."

This is most interesting. The General calls them 9-inch guns, although they are actually 7-inch in caliber. He confirms my thought that they are Brooke guns and "of a superior quality." I was at one time a metallurgist and these guns are a source of wonder to me. They welded one or more wrought iron jackets or bands around a wrought iron rifled tube, tapering them down to the muzzle and welded or forged two heavy wrought iron bands around the rear section of the gun, one over the other. The bands were rolled in a rolling mill the Confederates had at Selma which was a remarkable installation. Commander Catesby ap R. Jones, who was in charge of the foundry, and whose initials are on the right trunnion had been associated with Captain Brooke in building the famous Confederate ironclad Virginia (Merrimac) that fought with the monitor (designed and built by Ericson) at Hampton roads in the engagement that forever changed the design of naval vessels. The foundryman or ironmaster as they called them in those days seems to have been a man named George Peacock who was, I think, a Welshman and who came to America in 1848 with the famous engineer Erickson who built the Monitor.

The twin of your gun according to the Archives and History Dept. records was given to that department by Mr. Colton, along with the gun now at Jackson, which they think was also at Choctaw Bluff, although the records of the Chamber of Commerce at Jackson say that it was brought from Owen Bluff.

Anyway the other 7-inch Brooke gun from Choctaw Bluff is said to have been placed on the dredge boat Twining and carried around by it for some time and finally landed at Montgomery. Because the Archives Dept. had no funds to move it was carried to Maxwell Field and remained there some years. It was moved to the Archives and History grounds last spring for a few days and was taken to Fort Morgan in June where it is mounted near the entrance to the fort. It had so much paint on its right trunnion that I could not make out what is there but I have no doubt it had "1864" and "C ap R J" also on it.

Incidentally Mrs. McCrary, Secretary for the Jackson Chamber of Commerce wrote me that Catesby Jones' initials had been found on the 6.4-inch gun there. If "S95" and "S96" has this I am sure that "S89" at Fort Morgan, has too.

If the bore of your gun is not stopped up with some immovable object and you can feel in it with a pole or rod I think it is quite likely you may find a shot or shell in it with no powder behind this. That was one way of temporarily disabling a muzzle loading cannon as well as breaking off a spike

in the touch hole. A shot or shell was rammed down the barrel of the gun as far as it would go and left there with no powder charge behind it. The way to get these out, according to a old ordnance manuals, was to get enough powder down the touch hole in the powder space behind it to blow it out.

the gun

If there is a shell in ~~it~~ do not punch it too hard for there might be a percussion fuse on its nose. This type of shell was rammed down with a hollow rammer. The failure of such a fuse did not explode a shell that penetrated the stern post of the USS Kearsarge during the battle in which she sank the famous Confederate cruiser Alabama (that literally drove the US merchant marine off the ocean.) If this 7-inch shell from a Blakely rifled gun had exploded there is much reason to believe that the Kearsarge would now be at the bottom of the ocean off Cherbourg, France, instead of the Alabama.

There may be several screw holes near the touch hole on your gun that held the firing lock mechanism. Some guns were fired with a percussion cap lock and others by a friction primer jerked in the touch hole. It was a matter of life and death in firing muzzle loading cannon to keep the touch hole stopped up while a gun was being loaded for the hot bore of the gun could ignite the powder if air got to it. After a gun had been fired a number of times they could be fired by merely taking the cover off the touch hole and letting air get down it.

Your gun was mounted on a carriage (very likely wooden) on which the trunnions rested. This slid back on a slide from the recoil when it was fired and was run back into firing position after loading by eccentric rollers that lifted and moved it ahead part of every revolution. Its recoil was checked by a sort of hand-operated clutch under it called a "compressor mechanism". It took expertness to operate these. There was also another type of carriage called a "barbette carriage" that had larger rollers or wheels but operated pretty much the same way.

The fact that Gen. Steele in his reports about Choctaw Bluff says "magazines" were blown up confirms the thought that there should have been more than one of these and possibly several in a redoubt half a mile long, as they wanted them to be as near as they could safely be to the guns they served.

The magazines of the forts around Mobile were built with rooms made of logs underground, according to drawings I have of them. They were covered with tar mixed with sand which made something like our blacktop pavement and was water-proof. This was covered with a lot of earth. There should still be a number of projectiles somewhere around ~~the fort~~ ^{Stonewall} where they were scattered, when exploded.

The Confederates used a lot of land mines around Spanish Fort and some Federal troops were killed by them after the place was captured. It is a reassuring thought that they might have left some around Fort Stonewall. Incidentally a lot of civil war shells found by mine detectors during the last few years by US ordnance experts have been detonated. Some found at Chattanooga were exploded recently at the Anniston ordnance depot in the county where I live.

There are also some notes regarding the Tombigbee River enclosed. One thing they describe is a navy yard installation somewhere near Oven Bluff, although the report, written from a Federal war vessel near that place is a little indefinite and also mentions McIntosh Bluff. Anyway they had some houses for the navy yard workers, a blacksmith shop, 100,000 feet of lumber, a machine shop, a sawmill and a grist mill and a steam engine to run these with, it must have been, shafting and belts.

Oven Bluff must have been fortified to prevent a flanking movement on Choctaw Bluff by troops landed from the Tombigbee River. Choctaw Bluff, of course, was meant to protect Selma. It was first fortified when there seemed some likelihood of Mobile being attacked, around 1863. Some Confederate success in Mississippi removed this threat, or delayed it until Aug., 1864, when Farragut attacked and captured the mouth of Mobile Bay, but could not get beyond it, and the union army did not until they landed on the east side of the bay and attacked Spanish Fort in March, 1865. Mobile surrendered on April 12 and Choctaw Bluff was evacuated by Col. Miles and his Confederate forces on April 14. They went to Oven Bluff and abandoned it on the 15th. Selma had been captured by Federal troops coming from the other direction some time before this.

Dispatches indicate that the Confederates were very much concerned about the danger of losing a salt works that was in the Oven Bluff area. A list of steamboat landings as of 1873 shows a salt works landing five miles above Oven Bluff and twenty miles below Jackson. Salt was a major problem to the southern people and was worth its weight in money. I have wondered what the salt works used for raw material, if there was a salt spring there or a mineral deposit of salt, and if it exists now. I once showed an engineer of the Tennessee Corporation a civil war map that showed a copper mine then being worked at a place in Georgia. It had since been forgotten but he found some copper ore there.

Hope the information about the guns and Choctaw Bluff is of interest. I have had the experience, a number of times, of being able to point out to some one something about the place where they live. Showed my friend Col. Waverly Jackson, who has a very old antebellum house on the Duck River, near Columbia, Tennessee, a civil war map that showed the house with two semi-circular forts in front of it, and we found traces of the forts. I showed a filling station operator in Jackson, Miss., that a small ridge in the vacant lot next to his place was an earthwork, once. Another case on the highway between Franklin and Lewisburg, Tenn., while looking up the scene of a minor civil war engagement, was able to point out to the people in a country place that a ditch in their yard was where two field guns were dug in.

Still wonder where the other guns that were moved from Mobile to Choctaw Bluff went to. One report by a Federal officer said they were landed, or that some guns were landed at Choctaw Bluff during Feb., 1865 and then taken from there to Upper Peachtree Bluff, which was fortified.

Am enclosing a list of some of the river steam boat landings, principally ones around Choctaw Bluff and Oven Bluff. There were several hundred on each river.

Hope that your father is well and all right by now.

With best regards

Walter W. Stephen
24 Main St.
Oxford, Ala..

Oxford, Alabama

Oct. 25, 1956

The Secretary
The Chamber of Commerce
Columbus, Georgia

Dear Sir:

It has come to my attention recently that there is a reference in a history of Selma, Alabama to the fact that one or more old cannon that were made at the Confederate foundry at Selma are now or were located in Columbus.

If it is possible that this is true I would appreciate it beyond measure if you can advise me regarding the name and address of some one in Columbus who can give me information and a description regarding this, to whom I can write for this.

Am interested, as an amateur, in old cannon and have found authentic specimens made in Selma in New Orleans and four places in Alabama. It would be very intriguing if there should be one in Columbus.

An enclosing stamped envelope for reply

Sincerely

Walter W. Stephen
24 Main St.
Oxford, Alabama

JACKSON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

JACKSON, ALABAMA

Sept. 1, 1956

Mr. Walter W. Stephens
24 Main St.
Oxford, Ala.

Dear Mr. Stephens;

Received your letter in regard to our cannon, in front of the City Hall and I certainly appreciate the interesting facts you sent us. Several people here in Jackson are particularly interested in this cannon and its' history so they examined it carefully and did find the following inscription "C ap R.J." they also found the weight of the cannon to be 10,800 pounds instead of 16,000. I feel sure that the cannon must have been made in Selma, Ala.

I want to thank you again for your helpful information which I have filed here at my office.

Yours very truly,

Bessie S. McCrary

Jackson Chamber of Commerce
Bessie S. McCrary, Sec.

JACKSON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

JACKSON, ALABAMA

August 15, 1956

Walter W. Stephen
24 Main St.
Oxford, Alabama

Dear Sir:

Your letter of July 22nd was referred to this office by the local Postmaster.

I am unable to find out anything pertaining to the old fort which you inquired about.

However, I am enclosing all of the information about the old cannon which stands in front of the City Hall here in Jackson. Trusting that this will be of some help to you, I am,

Very truly yours,

JACKSON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

(Mrs. G. C.) Bessie S. McCrary

Mrs. G. C. McCrary
Secretary

M:p

Oxford, Ala..

August 21, 1956

Mrs. G. C. McCrary
Secretary, Jackson
Chamber of Commerce,
Jackson, Alabama

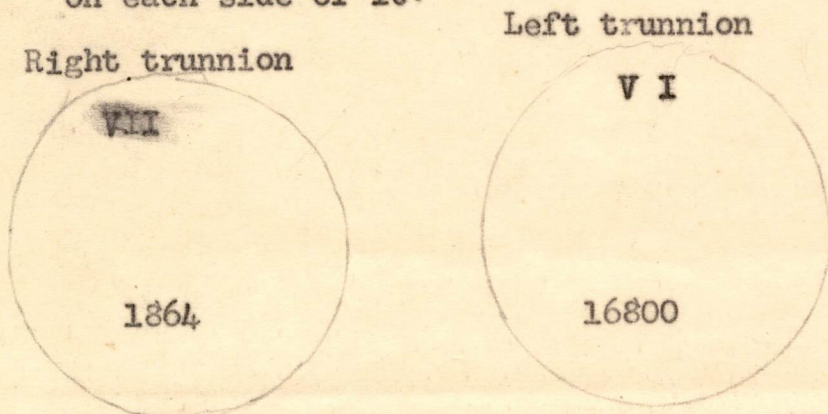
Dear Mrs. McCrary:

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to you and the Jackson Chamber of Commerce for the information you sent in regard to the cannon in front of the city hall at Jackson.

Looking at old cannon is a hobby of mine, although I am only an amateur at this sort of thing. During June, in passing through Jackson I stopped for a few minutes and noted the following with regard to the cannon, which perhaps some one in Jackson might be interested in hearing

I could not tell very much about the markings stamped on it by the people who made it because of the paint on it, but I observed the serial number "S96" on the head of the bolt through the cascabel or extension piece at the rear end of it.

I made the following out on the faces of the trunnions, or round knobs on each side of it:



The "VI" and what seems to be an illegible inscription at the top of each trunnion is the bore of the gun, or its diameter in inches. The bore by my measurement, was 6.4 inches.

The figures I seemed to make out at the lower

face of the left trunnion is the weight of the gun in pounds. The "1864" at the lower face of the left trunnion is the year that it was made, from which it would appear that the gun was not brought to Oven Bluff when that place was first fortified. (According to Volume XLIV, Series Part I, of the official army records published by the US government after the civil war Oven Bluff was fortified early in the civil war when the Confederates feared that Mobile might be taken and then later dismantled and abandoned. It seems to have been re-armed during Jan., Feb., and March, 1865 by guns brought up from Mobile.)

I hope all this is not boresome, but I thought perhaps that some one in the Chamber of Commerce or some one else connected with the city of Jackson might be interested in it.

I would consider it a great favor and this also might be of local interest if you can ask some one to carefully examine the face of the right trunnion of the cannon and see if the following inscription is not across its central part, under the paint: "C. ap R. J. ".

This is on the right trunnion of the gun now at Fort Stonewall in front of the residence of Mr. F. T. Stimpson, at Choctaw Bluff. It is the initials of a man with a very unusual name, Catesby ap R. Jones, who was a Confederate naval officer in charge of the Confederate foundry at Selma that made heavy cannon during the latter part of the war. The gun at Choctaw Bluff is very much like the one at Jackson. Its serial number is "S95" while the one at Jackson is "S96". (Or that was the one number I could find on it.)

The initials "C. ap R. J." on the Choctaw Bluff gun indicate that it was made at the Selma foundry, and if this appears to be on your gun it would show that this was also made at Selma.

Thanking you again very much

Sincerely

Walter W. Stephen
24 Main St.
Oxford, Alabama

(The following was apparently printed in a newspaper in Jackson, Alabama, during 1923)

OVEN BLUFF

"It is, perhaps, not known to many Clarke Countians that gunboats were built at Oven Bluff, in this county, during the civil war, but such was the case. Just how many boats were built there the author is not informed, but there was a force of men stationed there for quite a while. Above is shown a picture of a cannon which was located at Oven Bluff, and which was brought to Jackson a few months ago and placed on the public square at Jackson. It was through the efforts of Representative J. F. Boykin that this cannon was procured from the Department of Archives and History. This cannon was brought to Oven Bluff in the early part of the war. *

It appears that the Confederate government anticipated an attack on Mobile, and in order to provide relief in case that point should fall, they conceived the idea that the placing of a fort of defense on the lower waters of the Tombigbee might serve as protection against a river fleet. In consequence thereto it is probable that some of the old United States guns which had been mounted at Pensacola and at Mobile (Fort Morgan) were sent up the Mobile River to these points, one of which was Fort Stonewall, named in honor of Stonewall Jackson. Neither of the points was ever developed. The embankments were started in both cases without being completed."

* Note by W. Stephen: The cannon at Jackson has the date of its manufacture, 1864 stamped on its right trunnion and must have been taken to Oven Bluff when that place was rearmed (according to official civil war records Series I, Volume XLIV, Part I,) shortly before the end of the civil war. The records indicate that both Choctaw Bluff (Fort Stonewall) and Oven Bluffs were abandoned at some time after they were first fortified and then re-activated during Jan, Feb, Mar, 1865. This cannon was not an old United States gun as there is no "US" stamped on it, and appears to be a type of rifled gun manufactured by the Confederates at Richmond, Va., and Selma, Ala..

Oxford, Ala.

Oct. 6, 1956

Mr. Ben C. Stimpson
 Southern Pine & Hardwood Co.
 Box 413, Mobile, Alabama

Dear Mr. Stimpson:

An enclosing some notes I have found in the official army records of the civil war regarding Choctaw Bluff, one of which seems especially interesting, also several with regard to defenses on the Tombigbee River in Clarke County.

The paragraph I mentioned, which marked, is a report by a Federal General Steele on April 27, 1865:

"....The enemy's works at Choctaw Bluff were evacuated soon after the fall of Mobile." (Mobile surrendered, I think on April 12, and Choctaw Bluff was evacuated on the 14th) "The magazines were blown up the two Brooke 9-inch guns, which constituted its armament, were spiked. These guns, being of a superior quality, were left with a view of shipping them on the return of the fleet...."

The fleet never returned, and here we are writing about them. (The General refers to them as 9-inch guns, while they are really 7-inch caliber.)

I am happy that he confirms my thought that they were Brooke guns, of "of a superior quality," which they certainly are. I was a metallurgist at one time, and these guns are a source of wonder to me. They were made by welding tapered wrought-iron hoops or jackets, around a wrought iron rifled tube, and then two heavy bands around the rear end of the barrel. The confederates had a rolling mill at Selma that did some remarkable work. The ironmaster in the foundry was named George Peacock. He was brought to the United States (I think from Wales) by Erickson, the man who designed and built the famous monitor. Commander Catesby ap R. Jones, who was second officer on the Confederate ironclad that fought the monitor in 1862 was in charge of the foundry and his initials are on your gun. (And I am sure they are on the gun now at Fort Morgan which the Archives and History Dept. says is the twin of yours from Choctaw Bluff. At the times I saw the gun now at Fort Morgan it had too much paint on it.)

Incidentally Mrs. McCrary, Secretary for the Jackson Chamber of Commerce wrote me that they had found "C ap R J" on the 6.4-inch gun there, which their records indicate came from Oven Bluff, although the state archives department think it also came from Fort Stonewall.

More than one report by Federal officers say that the Confederates moved many heavy guns to Choctaw Bluff during the last several months of the war, and other reports say that they were moved to Upper Peachtree Bluff, somewhere up the river, but I can find no reports about the Federal army finding any of them. It may be that guns at your place were thrown in the river. The official records say that sixty or so guns (most of the light field guns) were thrown in the river at Macon Georgiaby Federal troops.)

There should be some old shells or shot scattered around Fort Stonewall as a result of the magazines being blown up. I was sure that there was more than one magazine in half a mile of redoubts, for they wanted them near the guns they served.

With best regards

Walter W. Stephen

Oxford, Ala..

Aug. 18, 1956

Mr. Ben C. Stimpson
Southern Pine and Hardwood Co.,
P. O. Box 413, Mobile, Alabama

Dear Mr. Stimpson:

It will give me very great pleasure to make a tabulated list of all that I find out about Fort Stonewall. It will be several weeks before I can write very much about it, as I only began I try to find out its history a few weeks ago.

I am planning to go to Montgomery before long and will go through whatever they may have at the Archives and History Dept.. This may contain some Confederate records which do not appear in the official records of the civil war, which the U. S. government published not long after that ended.

There is a set of these records in the library here (in Anniston) and I have spent about twenty hours going through some volumes that have to do with the last six months of the war, in which I have found half a dozen or so references to ~~the-Fe~~ Choctaw Bluff.

Am also writing to the U. S. Dept. of ARCHIVES and History at Washington and I am sure they can find something about Fort Stonewall, perhaps the report of some ordnance officer regarding the guns that were found there. I have been able to find the lists of guns surrendered at Mobile, Fort Morgan, Fort Gaines, and the Spanish Fort area and it is reasonable to think that there exists a record of the ordnance sililayly taken over at Choc-taw Bluff.

What I know so far may be briefly summed up: I am advised by the Ala. Archives and History Dept. that Fort Stonewall was first constructed in 1863 and armed with guns taken there from the arsenal at Mount Vernon Ala., then in possession of Southern forces.

A Federal officer reports, through the official records, that in Jan., 1865 that Fort Stonewall had at that time been abandoned and dismantled by the Confederates but that they were then re-arming and re-building it.

The Federal signal corps (U. S. forces since Aug. 1864 after the battle of Mobile Bay had been holding Fort Morgan and Fort Gaines but could not advance any further towards Mobile on account of the three lines of forts that encircled Mobile on its western side, Spanish Fort on the east side of the bay and obstructions and improvised mines or "torpedoes" in the bay itself) reports a number of different things about Choctaw Bluff during the first three months of 1865, up to the time that the several weeks battle at Spanish Fort began in March and ended well up in April just about the time General Lee surrendered.

The US Signal Corps were doing what the intelligence department does now and reported what their spies found out about the Confederates and what deserters told them.

One report was that Mobile was being abandoned and that all the guns there (more than one hundred) were being moved to Choctaw Bluff.

Another was that this was wrong and that only enough guns (did not say how many) were being moved up the river to Choctaw Bluff.

Also it was reported that the Confederates were arming another bluff not far up the river also.

I have found, so far, several Confederate reports. One was from a high officer urging that every measure (in Jan., 1865) be taken to repair Choctaw Bluff as soon as possible.

One, almost as the battle of Spanish Fort began, indicated that they were debating about sending more "impressed" colored laborers to Choctaw Bluff.

A report from Choctaw Bluff, during March, 1865 said that they had constructed and had ready ten rafts. These, presumably, were of logs and intended to block the river if necessary. They were having trouble keeping high water from floating the rafts away.

The volume (No. XLIV, Series I, Part I, army records,) ended there, and I have not begun the ones before or after this yet. It is a slow process, as it is necessary to go through page by page, as these reports are indexed mostly according to who made them and "Choctaw Bluff" is not shown in the index.

I hope, however, in some weeks to have more to send you, which it will give me great pleasure to do. You cannot imagine how much your report on the gun near your family home was interesting to me, as it is the first definite ordnance mark from the Selma foundry I have found. I thought that the guns Brooke guns I have seen with "S" in their serial numbers were from Selma, but was not sure.

If you are in Jackson or at Fort Morgan at any time in the near future I would appreciate it if you would look at the right trunnions of the Brooke rifled guns there and see if you can make out under the paint any trace of "C. ap J. R." on them at the same place it is on your gun.

Your letter of the 14th, with reference to what the old ex-slave stated about part of the 27 guns being made of brass was also very interesting. It seems to me that it is possible that he was right and that some of the first set of guns were 12-pound brass "Napoleons" a type of field gun on two wheels used by field artillery. A number of field guns that I have seen at national parks that apparently were survivors of the civil war were of brass. Two brass French 32-pounder ^{brass} carronades were among the guns surrendered by the Confederates in the Mobile area, also some brass howitzers (a short type of gun longer than a carronade.) Some of these might have been used in the first arming of Choctaw Bluff and then moved back to Mobile.

Incidentally Choctaw Bluff never had to defend Selma from US naval forces coming up the river, for Federal land expeditions captured it from the other direction on April 2nd, while Spanish Fort held out until April 10, and Blakely was captured and Mobile surrendered on April 12, about the time that General Lee did.

Now, with regard to the belief that some of the guns at Choctaw Bluff were thrown into the river there are legends that this was done at Selma, although the official report of the number of heavy guns found there finished or partly finished at the foundry indicates that it does not seem many were missing. I have read actual accounts of cases where Confederate batteries of field artillery threw their guns into rivers, at the end of the war.

It would have been more difficult to move heavy guns to the edge of the bluff over the parapets but I do not doubt that they the Confederates had shears and tackle or pairs of immense cartwheels by which they could move the guns and by which they had moved them. Certainly they tried to disable the guns by "spiking" them. The touch hole of the gun now at Fort Morgan was almost filled by a spike broken off in it and this was painted over so that everyone, including the Ala. Archives and History Dept., thought there was no touch hole and the gun had not been finished until I found the touch hole exactly where the ones on the guns at Jackson and Gainesville are located. I would guess that there are also three other screw holes near the touch hole on your gun that I presume held the firing lock mechanism.

If you are able to get some one who has a mine detector it might be interesting to take it in a boat and go over the river bed where it is likely the guns, if they were thrown in, might have fallen. I suspect that the bluff has "moved back" some since 1865. If there are guns under the river bed it is possible that a mine detector (not a Geiger counter, that registers radiation) might indicate them.

It really is likely, if Fort Stonewall was armed and ready at the end of the war, as surely it must have been, that there is buried somewhere in it the remains of a magazine with iron shot or shells in them. I have seen that happen in old civil war forts again and again. I have some detailed maps of the forts around Mobile, showing where the magazines of more than a dozen of these are and I have no doubt that there is cannon ammunition now buried there now. Just as the second world war was starting I gave Howard Barney and Danner Frazier (son-in-law and nephew of my friend since childhood Venetia Danner (Mrs. Clarendon McClure) and they were going, as a sort of treasure hunt adventure, to try to find some of these. The second world war stopped them from that, but several months ago some one sent me a clipping that described where a bulldozer in grading in the vicinity of the Mobile infirmary had unearthed shells and grape shot exactly where one of my maps showed where an underground magazine used to be. That has happened three in Mobile, in forts along Three-mile Creek.

The magazine would be at a central point near the rear area of Fort Stonewall. I would guess that there were two or more of them if the earthworks are half a mile long.

If the Confederates fortified a bluff on the other side of the river up above Choctaw Bluff fifteen or twenty miles on the other side (as one Federal spy reported they were doing) it must have been near Claiborne and just about where the plantation of one of my great-grandfathers Thomas Gaillard once existed, a little below Claiborne, and where my mother's mother, Marianne Gaillard (who was afterwards a well-known writer and author) grew up. There was a bluff there, for I remember hearing my grandmother say that when she was a child she used to take hold of a grape vine that grew on a tree and swing out into space beyond the high bluff over the river.

When I was four or five years old my mother and I went on a trip from Mobile

up to Mount pleasant on the old Nettie Quill. We visited the home of my great-uncle Charles Scott, who was at one time a United States foreign minister of some sort. I can remember the dining room of the Nettie Quill, that seemed to me then a block long with mirrors all around it.

All my life I wanted to express how one of the whistles of a river steamer used to sound. I know your father remembers them, and perhaps you saw some of the last ones. Finally I tried to do this in a poem I sold the Saturday Evening Post several years ago. (Writing has been one of my hobbies.) Pardon my repeating these verses, but because you know the river I thought that perhaps you might like to read them.

RIVER

Deck boy on a cotton bale
Watching driftwood wander by,
Misty river in the dusk
Going out to meet the sky.

Hound dog music far away
From the Mississippi shore,
Pine fire red against the dark
Through a distant cabin door.

Deep, deep, booming whistle blasts
Down the river roll and roll,
Echoing and echoing,
Talking to a lonesome soul.

Please excuse the length of this letter. Am enclosing rough copy of a map of the civil war forts and defenses as they existed immediately around Mobile in 1865. This includes the area where your plant is. Some of the forts, marked in red, are not far from this. I have some larger scale maps also of the redoubts in the second line, showing where the magazines were. One interesting thing is the piers on the river, which were individual private wharves projecting out into it at that time.

Before the second world war part of Fort N, in the second line existed on the bar at the foot of Dearborn St., also the moat of Fort M. A corner bastion of Fort K used to exist on Anne St. across from the pulley works. Some of these forts were tremendous things, six hundred feet across and forty high. Also in 1939 Fort D, a semi-circular redoubt, existed on the grounds of the golf course near the Mobile Infirmary and Fort B was perfectly preserved on the Craighead estate, also a large part of Fort A existed then.

I have nearly all the maps made during the civil war, but can find none of the defenses at Choctaw Bluff.

Surely do appreciate your invitation to stop and see Choctaw Bluff but am afraid it will be some months before I can do this. Am, however, as I said, trying to find out everything I can regarding it.

With best regards to you and your father and wishes for his recovery
Sincerely

Walter W. Stephen
21. Main St., Oxford, Ala..

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WESTERN UNION FIVE LETTER EDITION

MOBILE, ALABAMA

August 14 1956

Mr. Walter W. Stephen,
24 Main Street,
Oxford, Alabama.

Dear Mr. Stephen:

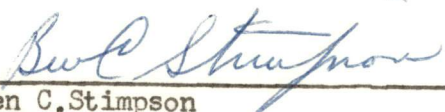
Thank you very much for your letter of August 8. Everything you had to say was very, very interesting to us; in fact, we actually learned more about the gun and Fort Stonewall from your letter than we had known before.

We wrote the State Archives Department and they sent us a clipping that appeared in the papers some years back but this really did not give us any information. If it would not put you to too much trouble we would appreciate you setting down everything you might know about old Fort Stonewall: how many guns were there and what happened to them, etc. As I mentioned in my last letter, an old ex-slave had said there were 27 guns there at one time - about half of them being brass guns. Naturally we could not believe this and have often wondered just what the true story is about the old place. Some have said the guns were thrown in the river. If we thought this was true we would see if it is possible to retrieve some of them.

As I told you in my first letter, it would certainly be our pleasure for you to visit the old Fort. In notice in your letter you say you might stop by sometime on the way to Mobile. Father stays at his home there most of the time but it might be he would be in Mobile at the time of your visit; therefore if you would not mind calling us collect, letting us know when you will be there, one of us will certainly meet you.

Again thanking you for all the information you have given us,

Yours sincerely,


Ben C. Stimpson

Oxford, Ala.

Aug. 8, 1956

Mr. Ben T. Stimpson
Southern Pine and
Hardwood Lumber Co.
3-Mile Creek and Telegraph Rd.
Mobile, Ala.

Dear Mr. Stimpson:

I wish to express my regret that your father has been ill and hope that he is much better by now.

Please convey to him my wishes for a soon recovery and my sincere and extreme gratitude for having you answer my letter. Also I cannot find words to say how much I appreciate your kindness and thoughtfulness in answering my questions so completely and instructively. It is just as though I had made a trip to Fort Stonewall and you have made it possible for me to go over a horizon.

The letters "C ap R. J." are very and extremely interesting to me. They are the initials of a Confederate naval officer with a very unusual name who commanded the southern ordnance works at Selma during the civil war. His name was Gatesby ap R. Jones. I think the "ap" which is a Spanish appellation in names meaning "the son of".

This proves that the gun was made in Selma, and makes it very likely that the 7-inch rifled gun now at Fort Morgan (it was at Maxwell Field, Montgomery) which is a duplicate of yours (has "S89" on it), the 6.4-inch rifled gun at Jackson (with "S96" on it) and the smoothbore 8-inch at the cemetery at Gainesville, Ala., (with "S26" on it) were also made at Selma.

I just found recently in the official army records of the civil war a report by a Federal Signal Corps officer (they did the intelligence work in those days) that a "refugee" from the Selma foundry during January, 1865 reported that there eightyfour men were there were engaged in making Brooke rifles as large as 11-inch ones. (All of the "S" guns I have mentioned are exactly the same in appearance to pictures of Brooke rifles in an old American encyclopedia and in a number of pictures, in the Photographic History of the Civil War, that were actual photographs.

The Brooke rifle was designed by a Confederate naval officer was made by placing wrought iron bands on a wrought iron rifle tube. It was said to shoot through, at-a (the 6.4-inch rifle at a moderate range) 8 inches of iron backed by 18 inches of oak. Brooke rifles sank two monitors off Charleston. The rifled gun made for the US government at a foundry at West Point, NY and designed by a US army officer named Parrott was made with a cast iron rifled tube with one wrought iron band around it. There is a 6.4-inch Parrott rifle near the entrance of Fort Morgan and two 8-inch Parrott rifles at the entrance of Fort Gaines.

I have read and when I was a boy I heard Confederate veterans say that the Brooke rifled gun would outshoot the Parrott. I remember hearing my step-grandfather (Major J. W. Spratley who used to live in Mobile and was an official of the old Mobile and Birmingham Railroad (afterwards that part of the Southern R. R.) say that he could tell a Parrott shell from any of the other Federal projectiles. He was at the siege of Port Hudson.

I think I have found out why the Brooke gun had more ballistic power than the Parrott by comparing the 6.4 Parrott rifle at Fort Morgan to the Brooke rifle in front of the city hall at Jackson. Each threw a shell (shaped much like the ones that are used in this day and time) that weighed around one hundred pounds. The Parrott gun at Fort Morgan weighs approximately ten thousand pounds and the Brooke gun at Jackson weighs one and a half times that much. They were able to use heavier powder charges in the latter. The Brooke rifle at Fort Morgan and the one at your place, each 7-inches in bore, threw shells that weighed (according to authorities I have read) from 115 to 120 pounds in weight.

Hope all this does not bore you but I thought perhaps that you would like to hear about the gun at your place if you do not already have this information.

Your plant seems to be near where the Danner lumber company is or used to be. The Danners used to be very close friends of my mother's family in Mobile. I was born in Mobile at 253 N Conception St. and the old city still fascinates me. I made a scrap book once with many sketches and photographs of the old houses there, many of which are gone now. Mobile used to be much like New Orleans, and there is lots of history around it.

If you would like a copy of maps of the forts and defenses around Mobile and at Spanish Fort and Fort Morgan it would make me very happy to send you one.

Again I wish to express my appreciation and gratitude for your kindness in sending me the report about the gun at your place. Some time I will come to Choctaw Bluff on my way to Mobile and am looking forward to seeing the earth works. I think it was originally built around 1863 when an attack on Mobile was feared and later dismantled and then re-armed near the end of the war. The official records also mention another bluff not far up the river where guns were placed.

Sincerely

Walter W. Stephen
24 Main St.
Oxford, Alabama

Oxford, Ala.

Jan. 25, 1957

Mrs. Dalton Smith
Jackson, Ala.

Dear Mrs. Smith:

My good friend Mr. Andrew Douglas, of Mobile, some time ago made a trip to Jackson in connection with an Episcopal church service there. During this he examined, which I had suggested him to do, the cannon at the City Hall and the ordnance marks on it.

In writing about this he mentioned that you had very kindly given him some information about this gun and that it had been one of several guns that were at Choctaw Bluff at the time that Confederate forces abandoned this place (which they did on April 14, 1865, according to official records) and that it had been thrown into the river.

The Archives and History Dept. which is directed by Mr. Peter Brannon confirms this and that this gun was recovered from the river by a dredge boat and afterward brought to Jackson and unloaded there. I think Mr. Douglass wrote that you said that there were seven guns at Fort Stonewall, at Choctaw Bluff when the war ended.

Five were evidently thrown into the river, for official records, Series I, Vol ~~XXX~~ XLIX, Part II, states that there were two there when Federal troops arrived there in April, 1865 after Choctaw Bluff was abandoned by southern forces. It describes them as Brooke guns, which the one at Jackson is, also.

These two guns, and the one at Jackson, were made at Selma, having serial numbers marked with "S" (they were numbers "S89," "S95," and the one at Jackson is "S96".) All have the initials of Commander Catesby ap R. Jones, CS Navy, who had charge of the Confederate naval foundry at Selma, on their trunnions.

Am writing this taking the liberty to ask if you could tell me what you know of the history of Fort Stonewall, at Choctaw Bluff, during the civil war, as I am much interested in this. Official records say that there was a fort at Choctaw Bluff as far back as July, 1863. They also say that at the end of 1864 it was in a dismantled and abandoned condition but was re-armed in Jan and Feb., and March, 1865. The second time it seems to have been equipped with heavy Brooke guns made at Selma and moved up from the defenses of Mobile with some possibly direct from Selma.

Am enclosing a stamped envelope.

Sincerely

Walter W. Stephen
24 Main St.
Oxford, Ala..

Oxford, Ala.

June 6, 1957

Mr. Ben F. Stimpson
Southern Pine & Hardwood Co
Box 413, Mobile, Ala..

Dear Mr. Stimpson:

Your kindness in noting and sending to me a record of the markings on the 7-inch Brooke rifled gun at your place at Croctaw Bluff nearly a year ago really started me on the trail of finding out something about the guns made at Selma during the civil war and since that time I have been picking up a little here and there about this and about old guns in general. Now, during the last few days I have really gotten into something regarding this. I have gotten from the Dept. of Naval Records in the Archives Section, in Washington, a microfilm copy of two old books that contain, written by hand by CS Navy Commander Catesby ap R. Jones (whose unusual initials are on your gun) and others, a minute record of every one of the 125 or so guns and 20 mortars that were made at the Selma Naval Foundry. They began in July, 1863, and actually finished their first guns about the first of 1864 and made them nearly to the bitter end of the war. Every detail of the process by which they made them is recorded and they were masterpieces of metallurgical craft, and it seems to me they did some things that are thought to have been discovered later.

They used "Bibb cold blast No. 1 iron." It was made in Bibb county, most of it at a furnace near Montevallo at Briarfield. They graded foundry iron as this is done now, Number 1, 2, etc., by its crystallization and samples they subjected to breaking tests much like is done now. (only now much grading of iron is done by chemical analysis.)

They had some air blast reverberatory furnaces using pine knots and charcoal for fuel in which they melted this pig iron and ~~reall~~made, it looks to me, like something like steel. They seem to have added limonite (brown iron ore) to the melt that "slagged off" impurities and they added charcoal to that did something to the fixed carbon content. This was possible with iron made by charcoal, but would have been very much more difficult with modern iron made with coke. They took out and strenght-tested a dozen or so samples from each melt

Now about your gun, S-95.

Its manufacture at the Selma foundry was begun Aug. 8, 1864. Even the weather and wind direction is noted. (Perhaps because Catesby Jones was a naval man.)

Its main tube was cast and solidly and then apparently bored out with a hollow drill. The core thus bored out was broken off every few inches and its appearance and crystallization were noted, and were all right. (Some guns were condemned and abandoned from metallurgical defects at different stages of their manufacture.)

They began to bore it out Aug. 26, 1864, and it was in the turning mill Sept. 8, 1864. They carefully turned off the exterior of the bored and rifled tube and shrunk on this from muzzle to breech iron ~~w~~ bands or rings (of the same wrought iron), the exterior of these tapering from the muzzle to the main part of the gun. Then they made and shrunk on the two great iron bands around the rear half of the gun. I think they made each of these out of two or more separate band. I will send you a copy of the diagram showing every band around the tube of your gun, which I failed to put down a day or two ago when I had the microfilm in a projecting machine at a local newspaper office.

The vent, or "touch hole" of the gun was drilled out Nov. 5, 1957. If it is possible, if your gun is arranged like the others, that you can find three screw holes near this that held the lock mechanism by which it is fired, although the crews may be broken off even with the surface and rusted over. The touch hole should have a spike broken off in it (as of April 14, 1865.)

It does not seem to have been weighed, so desperate they were in those days of '64, but it was estimated that it weighed 14,800 pounds. (The other 7-inch guns have this on their left trunnions.)

Its final inspection was made Nov. 10, 1864. Then, for some reason, it was not shipped for over a month. I think that was because of Commodore Farrand, CS Navy, at Mobile, who seemed to be a vacillating sort of person, who, Catesby Jones in a letter, was not giving him sufficient directions about shipping guns to Mobile.

Your gun was sent to Mobile on a river steam boat, being shipped to Flag Officer Farrand, CS Navy, at Mobile, on Jan 6 or 7, 1865.

At some time before April, 1865 it was carried up the river to Choctaw Bluff, and has been there since that day. Federal officers, in official records, kept reporting that heavy guns, during Jan., Feb., and March, 1865 were being carried up the river to Choctaw Bluff, Oven Bluff and Upper Peach Tree, although there is no record that Federal forces found any at the latter two places.

On April 14 the Confederates seem to have blown up the magazine at Choctaw Bluff, spiked two 7-inch rifles there, your S-95 also #89, later at Montgomery and now at Fort Morgan.

Mrs. Dalton Smith, who seems to be a local historian at Jackson, told a friend of mine, Andrew Douglass, an engineer for the Converse Engineering Co., that five guns at Choctaw Bluff were thrown into the river. The 6.4-inch rifled Brooke gun at Jackson, according to the State Archives Dept., was recovered from the river by a dredge boat. I would guess that because it is two tons lighter than your gun it was thrown into the river, and that the other four guns, which quite likely are there still were also lighter than the 7-inch, or maybe they took them in order and had to leave before the last two were heaved over the bluff.

My mother's mother, Marianne Gaillard Willisson, who was a writer, painter and musician of some celebrity in her time, was a young widow in 1865. She left Mobile on one of the last steam boats that got out before it surrendered and went up the Tombigbee River because Federal forces already had the Alabama River. She got off the steam boat somewhere near or above Jackson in the dead of night and rode a mule through that wild country between the Tombigbee and Alabama Rivers across to Claiborne (I do not know how she crossed the latter river). She was born and grew up on the Gaillard plantation near Claiborne. Later she married Major J. W. Spratley who was a well known resident of Mobile until he died in 1910.

Incidentally I plan to leave here in a few days that will include a short time in Mobile about June 23-25 or so. Will try to call you and, if you are in town, would like to drop by your office a few minutes to say hello.

With best regards

24 Main St., Oxford, Ala..

PS Enclose history of seven other Brooke guns from Selma.

Jackson, Alabama
July 3rd, 1957

Mr. Walter W. Stephen
24 Main Street
Oxford, Alabama

Dear Mr. Stephen:

Your letter with reference to the Civil War Cannon here in the front of the City Hall together with other very interesting references and information reached me in this morning's mail.

I consider it extremely good luck that I happened to meet you and obtain this information which I have wanted a long time. If there were more people like you that would gather historical information, we would have a more complete record of what has gone before.

I appreciate the nice things that you said about my father in your letter. I would like to mention that at the time he wrote his history of Clarke County, Alabama, he was far advanced in age and almost totally blind, else it might have been of better form etc. As soon as I received your letter, I mailed you a copy of the history which you should receive in due time.

With this supply of information that you have furnished me, I am going to get a marker for this cannon, with the help of other interested parties. I will advise you of any accomplishments in this project.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

Edward C. Graham

Oxford, Ala..

June 29, 1957

Mr. Edward C. Graham
430 East Church St.
Jackson, Alabama

Dear Mr. Graham:

It was a great pleasure to meet you and to talk to you while I stopped a moment in Jackson last Wednesday, especially since I have so much reverence and admiration for your father as a writer, a historian and a civil war veteran.

The following are a few items concerning the history of the 6.4-inch rifled muzzle-loading cannon in front of the City hall at Jackson.

It has its caliber VI⁴ in marked on each trunnion. (the round knobs on each side. It has its weight (estimated in round numbers at the foundry) 10,800 lbs on its right trunnion. It had the date of the year it was completed, 1864 on its right trunnion, also the letters C and R J.

These letters are the initials of Commander Catesby ap R. Jones, of the Confederate navy, who had charge of the Confederate Naval Foundry at Selma, Ala., during the civil war. It also has its serial number S 96 on its trunnions, muzzle and several more places on it.

It is a Brooke rifled gun. This type of gun was made by the Confederate States government during the civil war at the Tredegar Iron Works at Richmond and at the Naval Foundry at Selma, Alabama. It was made of wrought iron bands "built up" or shrunk over a wrought iron rifled tube, and was the best type of muzzle loading cannon ever made.

The gun at Jackson was made at Selma. A micro-film copy of the record books of the Selma foundry (gotten from the National Archives and History Depr. at Washington, D. C.,) shows that gun No. 96, (this one) a rifled 6.4-inch piece was begun at the foundry on August 9, 1864. It notes that on that day the weather was clear and the wind was from the east.

It was made of No. 1 Bibb (County) charcoal cold blast iron. (this was made at the Brierfield furnace, near Montevallo, Ala..).

In being remelted in a large reverberatory furnace at the Selma foundry it went through a process that seems to have changed it into something like wrought iron, from which the tube and bands of the gun were cast and then turned and machined to fit.

It was completed during December, 1864 and was shipped to Mobile to General D. M. Maury, at Mobile, on December 21, 1864. At some time after that it was moved from Mobile to the river defences.

Mr. Peter Brannon, director of the Alabama Archives and History Department at Montgomery, says that the records of that department show that it was located at Fort Stonewall, at Choctaw Bluff, on the Alabama River, in Clarke County, and that it was thrown into the river, presumably by the Confederates when they abandoned Fort Stonewall (which official records show they did on April 14, 1865. Series I, Volume XLIX, Part II, Official Army Records.

Also that it was recovered from the river during the 1900's by a dredge boat that was removing snags from the river. It was carried up and down the river, according to these records, for some time and then landed at Jackson, being then moved by oxen from the river.

Series I, Volume XXVI, Part I, Page 654 show that on July, 25, 1863 a Federal officer reported that a Confederate existed then at Choctaw Bluff. Mr. Ben C. Stimpson, of Mobile, whose father Mr Fred Stimpson, has a place at Choctaw Bluff, wrote me that an old ex-slave once said that there were 87 guns there. Mr. Peter Brannon says these guns came from the Mount Vernon arsenal and The fort at Choctaw Bluff was abandoned and dismantled at some time before Jan., 1865 when in army civil war records, Series I, Vol. XLIX, Part II, I, page 159, a Federal army officer reported that it was being re-armed with heavy guns that were brought from Mobile. Oven Bluff is also mentioned as being armed.

Official records mention the two 7-inch Brooke rifled guns that were found at Choctaw Bluff when it was abandoned by the Confederates and the magazines blown up on April 14, 1865. One, No. S-95 is still there and the other, S-89, was carried to Montgomery by the dredge boat, where it was at Maxwell Field for many years, and was taken to Fort Morgan, at the entrance of Mobile Bay, in 1956.

With regard to the record of the gun at Jackson would suggest that you contact Mr. Peter Brannon, Director of the Archives and History Dept, at Montgomery for verification of this.

It would indeed be a desirable thing if a suitable marker could be placed at the gun.

Mrs. Dalton Smith, of Jackson, told a friend of mine that there were, at the end of the war, seven heavy guns at Choctaw Bluff. Five, presumably, were thrown into the river.

Am enclosing some notes regarding the history of Choctaw and Oven Bluffs. There seems to have been a shipyard somewhere near Oven Bluff, as noted in these.

I am not a historian, but have a hobby of looking up things that make historians happy, and I appreciate the thought and research that your father spent in compiling his good and interesting history of Clarke County.

Sincerely

Walter W. Stephen
24 Main St.
Oxford, Alabama

Oxford, Ala.

July 22, 1956

The Postmaster
Jackson, Alabama

Dear Sir:

I would be grateful to you and would appreciate it beyond measure if you could advise me regarding some one who might be able to tell me, if I wrote to them, anything about the history of the old cannon that is in front of the city hall in Jackson.

Also regarding the location of an old fort known as "Fort Stonewall" that existed during the latter part of the civil war on a bluff of the Alabama river below Gainesville, or near it, perhaps at Choctaw Bluff. The Archives and History department at Montgomery thinks that the gun at the city hall came from there, also that one or more guns remain there now.

I am interested in this because the history of old cannon is a hobby of mine. Am enclosing a stamped and self-addressed envelope.

Sincerely

Walter W. Stephen
24 Main St.
Oxford, Alabama

*Also wrote Gainesville
& Choctaw Bluff*

Oxford, Ala.

July 26, 1956

Mr. Fred T. Stimpson
Carlton, Ala., Rt. 2.

Dear Mr. Stimpson:

It is a hobby of mine to be interested, as an amateur, in old forts and old cannon.

Having heard of Fort Stonewall, which was situated on the Alabama river to guard it and was erected by the Confederates during the civil war I wrote to Mr. Howell, the postmaster at Choctaw Bluff regarding this.

He very kindly wrote me that the site of the old fort, with one cannon still there, is situated near where you live and that you could give me some information regarding it.

I would, therefore, appreciate it beyond measure and be very grateful to you if you can advise anything you know regarding its history. All I have heard is that it was built late in the war, in 1864 when it became apparent that Federal forces might take Mobile. (Which they did, just as the war ended in April, 1865 after taking Fort Morgan and the entrance to the bay in Aug. 1864.)

Also if at some time you are near the old fort and the remaining cannon please look at it and mark on the enclosed sheet of paper ~~which type it seems to be~~ and whatever marks there are stamped on the muzzle and the faces of the trunnions (the round knobs on each side) also on top the barrel, if there is anything there.

I have heard from the Archives and History Dep't. of the state of Alabama that the cannon in front of the city hall at Jackson came from Fort Stonewall, also one that was at Maxwell Field, at Montgomery and has been moved to Fort Morgan which is at the east side of the entrance to Mobile Bay. .

Am enclosing a stamped and addressed envelope for you to use in case you can send me this appreciated and desired information.

Sincerely

Walter W. Stephen
24 Main St.
Oxford, Alabama

Choctaw Bluff, Ala
July 25th 1956

Mr. Walter W Stephens
Opford Alabama

Dear Sir:

The Fort is near the Bluff and one
of the Cannon still near the River
Mr Fred J Stegerson can tell you
about the Cannon as he lives there
near the Fort

Sincerely
A J. Howell

P.S. his address is Carlton Ala
Rt 2

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION



National Archives and Records Service
Washington 25, D. C.

April 29, 1957

In reply refer to NNS

Mr. Walter W. Stephen
24 Main Street
Oxford, Alabama

Dear Mr. Stephen:

We have your letter dated April 19, 1957, asking for information about Catesby ap R. Jones.

Catesby ap R. Jones, a nephew of Thomas ap Catesby Jones, entered the Navy as a Midshipman on June 18, 1836, but did not attend the Naval Academy which was not established until 1845.

Further details concerning his U. S. Naval Service and Confederate Naval service can be found in the Dictionary of American Biography.

Among the records of the Confederate States Navy in the National Archives are two volumes of record of guns manufactured at Selma, Alabama between July 1863 - January 1865. This record shows that 125 guns, including 6, 7, 10, and 11 inch guns, and 20 mortars were produced. It includes a description of the gun and tests and shows final disposition. A negative microfilm copy of these volumes can be furnished for \$30.00.

Remittance should be sent to the National Archives and Records Service by check or money order made payable to the General Services Administration.

Sincerely yours

Elbert L. Huber
Archivist in Charge, Navy Branch
War Records Division
The National Archives

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION



National Archives and Records Service

Washington 25, D. C.

September 20, 1956

Mr. Walter W. Stephen
24 Main Street
Oxford, Alabama

Dear Mr. Stephen:

Your letter of August 20th asked for information concerning a fort built by Confederate forces during the Civil War at Choctaw Bluff on the Alabama River, guns at this fort, and ordnance marks on heavy cannons made at the Confederate Tredegar foundry at Richmond, Virginia.

A search of War Department records in the National Archives has failed to disclose either a history of Confederate fortifications at Choctaw Bluff, Alabama, or reports of ordnance stores placed there and subsequently captured by Federal forces in 1865. Nor has any record been found showing the markings placed by the Tredegar Iron Works, Richmond, Virginia, on ordnance manufactured for the Confederate government.

Your letter indicates that you are aware of the references to Choctaw Bluff in the Official Records, (Washington, 1881-1901). They are in Series I, volume XLIX, part I, pages 636, 823, 865, 923, and part II, page 159. The Atlas to Accompany the Official Records, plate CX, No. 1, "Campaign of the Army of West Mississippi, Maj. Gen. E. R. S. Canby, Comdg., in Southern Alabama, March and April, 1865," shows Choctaw Bluff, but does not indicate any fortification there.

A brief search was made of the correspondence of the Supervising Special Agents, T. C. A. Dexter and J. M. Tomery, of the 9th Special Agency of the Treasury Department which are among the General records of the Treasury Department. This Agency was established near the end of the Civil War in the area including Alabama to handle captured and abandoned property. Practically all these papers appear to concern cotton transactions, but, from our cursory examination we are unable to say they contain nothing concerning ordnance stores seized at Choctaw Bluff. The incomplete inventories that we have, however, do not indicate that anything of this nature would be found therein. The records are voluminous and so arranged that with our small staff we cannot undertake the extensive searching that your inquiry would involve.

By advance arrangements, however, these records can be made available to you in our search rooms should you wish to examine them.

Mr. Walter W. Stephen

- 2 -

A statement of hours of admission to our search rooms is enclosed.

Very truly yours,

Cyle J. Holwerst

For: Thad Page, Chief Archivist
Legislative, Judicial, and
Diplomatic Records Branch

Enclosure

Oxford, Alabama

October 3, 1956

Lyle J. Holverstall
Asst. to Thad Page, Chief Archivist,
National Archives and Records Service
Washington 25, D. C.

Thank you very much and more than I can express for your search of civil war records for information concerning the fort that the Confederate army built at Choctaw Bluff, Clarke County, Alabama, and its armament that was surrendered to federal forces near the end of the war.

I can realize the difficulty of conducting an extensive search in so many volumes of records and can understand how the desired information could not be found.

I have been lucky, however, in running across ^{since my letter of inquiry} this and hope that I am not presuming in sending it to your department (as I am not a historian) in case some one ^{else} should ask this question, ^{another time.}

In volume XLIX, Series I, Part II of the official army records, on page 1249, a Confederate officer reports that on April 14, 1865, Confederate forces evacuated Oven Bluff and blew up the magazine.

Also in the same volume, Page 496, Major Gen. F. Steele, US Army reported "....The enemy's works at Choctaw Bluff were evacuated soon after the fall of Mobile. The magazines were blown up and two 9-inch Brooke guns, which constituted its armament, were spiked. These guns, being of a superior quality, were left with a view of shipping them on the return of the fleet...."

These guns were actually 7-inch Brooke rifled guns. One of them is still at the site of Fort Stonewall, the name of the fort at Choctaw Bluff. The other is at Fort Morgan, at the east side of the entrance of Mobile Bay, Alabama. They are marked "C ap R J," the initials of Commander Catesby ap R. Jones, who had charge of the Confederate foundry at Selma, Alabama, that made heavy guns during the civil war.

With regard to the ordnance mark of the Tredegar Foundry, at Richmond, Va., where the Confederates made heavy guns, I have run across, since I wrote to you, also, a rifled 30-pounder gun at Fort Morgan, made in 1862 that has no "US" on it and was therefore either made by the Confederates or imported by them. It has "TF" as one of its marks, which I have reason to think meant "Tredegar Foundry."

Again, thanking you very much

Walter W. Stephen
24 Main St.
Oxford, Ala..

Anniston, Ala..

Aug. 6, 1948

Mr. W. N. Fitzgerald, Jr.,
530 East Mason St.,
Milwaukee 2, Wis..

Dear Mr. Fitzgerald:

I wish to apologize and to express my regret that I have not yet answered your valued letter of April 22, containing the very interesting letters of Captain Thomal L. Evans.

This letter of yours came while I was away from Anniston, and was misplaced in my files. I have been away from home, travelling, nearly all of the time since then and have just gotten back and sett~~had~~ down again.

I surely would like to keep the interesting letters. If there was any expense in sending them please send me a bill for same.

The history of the Mobile campaign has always been interesting to me because, when I was a child in Mobile, I have heard my grandmother describe how the constant discharge of musketry and artillery was plainly to be heard in Mobile for weeks. Several of my relatives were there and some of them were killed. I have heard, when I was a child, men who were at Spanish Fort and Fort Morgan tell about it.

I once heard an old artillery officer tell how, when Farragut's fleet has passed Fort Morgan, the gunboat Phillipⁱ came in after them and a shell from one of his guns disabled her. Her crew left her and the confederates boarded and burned her. Her boiler used to be visible on the "West bank" near Fort Gaines when I was a boy, until the 1906 hurricane, and is still somewhere there now.

In 1931 I found some of the old confederate obstructions in Blakely^d River, although all this has been filled up since then.

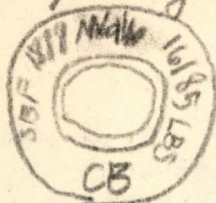
The history of the 8-inch gun "Lady Slocum", which was in the "Red Fort" in the line of trenches at Fort Morgan is an interesting one, and I have heard much of this. This gun was used by the confederate Washington Artillery and was the only large gun in the defences on the landward side. A smooth bore 8-inch columbiad, which was pointed out to me by my grandfather as the "Lady Slocum" was on Government St. in 1897. Not long after this men who were then living ex-members of the Washington Artillery, who had operated and fired this gun came to Mobile, identified it and took it to New Orleans where it is now in front of the old Washington Artillery museum which is on a street a block West of St. Charles St and near Lee square or park, which is on St. Charles St out past the St. Charles Hotel. This gun was made at the arsenal at Selma, Ala.. One of the trunnions was knocked off.

Many people used to say it fired the last shot of the civil war

There is an interesting old gun on the ground in the courtyard of the old market building (city hall) in Mobile, whose history is a bit of a puzzle to me. I of course took it to be a relic of the Mobile campaign, but it has a date stamped on the muzzle 1879 with what appears to be an ordnance inspector's initials. Below is a drawing of the muzzle of this gun, also of two guns that are exact duplicates that are at the Brownstown monument two miles south of Trenton, Michigan (a southern suburb of Detroit) on the Toledo highway.

Muzzles of two guns in Michigan -

*Muzzle of gun in Mobile
guns have weights*



*8" rifled
bore*



It is interesting to note that serial number 25 is in Michigan now and No. 26 is in Mobile. These guns have every detail of 11-inch smooth bore Rodman guns that were changed to 8-inch rifled guns after the civil war and the date on the muzzle is one that fits this time. Am still trying to get the history of this type of gun. If this gun, in the courtyard was re-bored and a rifled tube put in it in 1879 there is no guarantee it was at Mobile in the campaign there, any more than the two similar ones in Michigan.

Do you have the maps of Mobile and Spanish Fort that were published with the official history? I will be glad to send you some copies if you do not.

Mobile, as you know, was defended by a ring of three lines of fortifications on the land side, which were deemed so strong that no attack was ever made on them. The middle ring consisted of nearly twenty redoubts, some of which were 600 feet square and 40 feet high. Two of them, Fort B, on the Craighead estate, and Fort D, on a golf course, are in perfect condition now. I have no doubt that there are magazines still under them containing shells and other projectiles, also at other locations, under ground, where there were forts. Several years ago some digging that was being done at the remains of Fort A found a magazine.

There are several old guns at Fort Morgan which were on the British brig Hermes that was destroyed there by the fort called Fort Bpwyer, at Mobile Point, that preceded Fort Morgan.

There is also a carronade on Springhill Ave. that I ^{suspect} think came from the Hermes.

Old guns are an interesting subject. Most U. S. guns have the date they were made on the round face of the left trunnion. Two months ago I saw the date 1851 on this place on a field gun at Fort Niagara, near Niagara Falls.

Also recently I saw 1837 on the left trunnion of an old gun at Montgomery, Ala., and 1863 on one at Fort Morgan.

The English used to put dates on the barrel of a gun near the breach, also all their guns have the broad arrow mark on them. The French put dates on the right trunnions of guns. I saw two at Montreal, Canada, not long ago with 1801 and 1802 on them.

Have wondered if you are writing a history of both the naval and land campaign of Mobile. Parker's "Battle of Mobile Bay" is a good account of the battle in Aug. 1864. Do you have that?

Shot have been dredged up in several locations in the bay, a harbor engineer told me ten years ago or so. You know, there were twelve or thirteen vessels sunk in the bay by home made "torpedoes" or mines, before the war was over, including the Tecumseh monitor and the Osage and Milwaukee, who were light draft monitors. When I was a boy there was an old iron wreck in Blakely River that was said to have been there since the civil war. There is a sunken wreck off Cedar Point that has appeared on maps since right after the war, which may be war history. Also there used to be obstructions visible in Pinto Pass, which is between two islands in the river, that the confederates put there.

I have had a lot of fun finding where several forts of the indian campaign in Alabama of 1813-1814 were. In each case there are some good earthworks still remaining, at Fort Strother, Fort Williams, Fort Siver, and Fort Jackson, on the site of the French Fort Toulouse. Also I think I have found where Fort Armstrong was.

I am sure you have had correspondence with Mr. Peter Brannon, the director of the military department of the Archives and History Bldg. at Montgomery.

With best regards

Sincerely

Walter W. Stephen
Box 904
Anniston, Alabama



NORRIS & FITZGERALD

AGENTS

530 EAST MASON STREET

MILWAUKEE 2, WIS.

Phone: Daly 0257

April 22, 1948

Mr. Walter W. Stephen
Box 904
Anniston, Alabama

Dear Mr. Stephen:

Rucker Agee of Birmingham wrote me that he had spoken to you of my interest in the Battle of Mobile and had indicated that you would be good enough to get in touch with me. In the meantime, I am taking the liberty of writing to you and am enclosing a copy of the letters written by Captain Thomas L. Evans of the 96th Ohio Infantry. Captain Evans was graduated from Otterbein College in Ohio in the summer of 1862. He enlisted on August 7th, 1862 at the age of 24. The Company was organized at Marysville, county seat of Union County, Ohio. The ninety six soldiers, a drummer and a fifer elected the original officers. At that time, Mr. Evans was a second lieutenant. These letters came into my possession through Captain Evans' son, who was a guest at the Grand Hotel, Point Clear, while we were there this spring. If you are interested in them, you are welcome to them, if not, will you return them to me? As Mr. Agee indicated, I have the official records and the Andrews book. If you have any old books that you can loan me or tell me about or any other information, I would appreciate hearing from you.

Very truly yours,

W. N. FitzGerald, Jr.

WNFjr:rr

nc.



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1923 — SILVER ANNIVERSARY YEAR — 1943

August 18, 1948

Mr. Walter W. Stephen
Box 904
Anniston, Alabama

Dear Mr. Stephen:

I wish to thank you very much for your letter of August 6th and you are more than welcome to the letters of Captain Evans and there is no charge for it. I do not have the maps of Mobile and Spanish Fort and if you have copies, I would be most happy to have them and I would be glad to reimburse you for any cost that you are put to.

Mrs. Fitzgerald and I spent almost a month at the Grand Hotel at Point Clear and I spent quite a bit of time going over Fort Morgan and Spanish Fort but did not get to Blakeley. I tried to drive there but finally gave up in despair as the road was in terrible condition.

We have in Milwaukee a group of men who are interested in the War Between the States which is known as the Civil War Round Table and we meet about once a month and we had a meeting last night at which Bob Henry spoke on the "Railroads of the Confederacy" and I have been working on the battle of Mobile Bay with the idea of using it as a talk before our group. Last night we had forty in attendance. I have had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Peter Brannon and have the pleasure of belonging to the Alabama Historical Society. I have been interested in reading Sharf's "History of the Confederate Navy" for the Southern Side of the battle of Mobile Bay and have just been reading the report of the secretary of the Navy for the year of 1864 for the northern side. Do you have these two books? I do not have a copy of Parker's "Battle of Mobile Bay". Do you where I could obtain a copy? I have not answered your question regarding the markings on the muzzles but I will try to look into this matter and I will write to you again on that.

With best wishes.

Wm. G. M. A.
W. Norman Fitzgerald, Jr.



W. G. M. A.

THE EMPLOYERS' GROUP MAN IS

The Man with the Plan



NORRIS & FITZGERALD

530 EAST MASON STREET
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Insurance

Representing AMERICAN EMPLOYERS' INSURANCE COMPANY

January 13, 1949

Mr. Walter W. Stephen
P. O. Box 904
Anniston, Alabama

Dear Mr. Stephen:

You were good enough last summer to mention having some maps of Spanish Fort and if you have an extra copy or know where I can obtain one, I would very much appreciate it. I would be very glad to pay any reasonable charge. Mrs. FitzGerald and I hope to leave in about eight weeks and spend some time at Point Clear and if possible, I would like very much to have the map at that time. Anything you can do in this matter to help me will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Norman FitzGerald, Jr.

W. Norman FitzGerald, Jr.

WNFjr:rr

P.S. This letter was sent elsewhere in error.

n. n. s.



THE EMPLOYERS' GROUP MAN IS *The Man with the Plan*



NORRIS & FITZGERALD

530 EAST MASON STREET
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Insurance

Representing AMERICAN EMPLOYERS' INSURANCE COMPANY

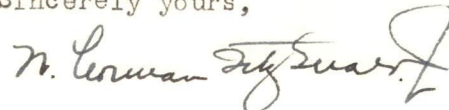
January 25, 1949

Mr. Walter W. Stephen
P. O. Box 904
Anniston, Ala.

Dear Mr. Stephen:

Thank you very much for your letter of January 20th enclosing Parker's "Battle of Mobile Bay" and the maps of Spanish Fort, Mobile, Fort Morgan, Selma, Huntsville, Stevenson, and Bridgeport. I certainly appreciate your gifts of the maps and am looking forward to reading the book with a great deal of interest. If I find anything that may be of interest to you, I will be most happy to send it to you. Thank you very much for your courtesy in this matter.

Sincerely yours,



W. Norman FitzGerald, Jr.

WNFjr:rr



THE EMPLOYERS' GROUP MAN IS *The Man with the Plan*



NORRIS & FITZGERALD

530 EAST MASON STREET
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

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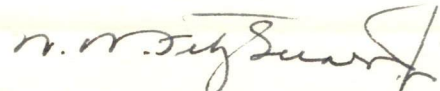
March 9, 1949

Mr. W. W. Stephen
Post Office Box 904
Anniston, Alabama

Dear Mr. Stephen:

I have read with a great deal of interest your copy of Parker's "Battle of Mobile Bay". The notes are particularly interesting and I am sending it to you today via registered mail. I am trying to get hold of a copy of this book and I particularly liked the notes you entered in it. Do you happen to know who wrote them? I am sorry to say that we are not coming to Mobile this year so it will not be possible for us to go into this battle any further at this time. However, if you get any information, I would very much appreciate having it.

Very truly yours,



W. Norman FitzGerald, Jr.

WNFjr:rr



THE EMPLOYERS' GROUP MAN IS *The Man with the Plan*



Oxford, Ala.

May 28, 1958

Mr. John T. Willitt
Stone River National Military Park
Murfreesboro, Tenn..

Dear Mr. Willitt:

Enclosed find two two lists of sheets with marks of old guns on them, and I sincerely thank you for writing Col. Waverly that you were interested in them.

I visited Columbia for several months a year for nearly 20 years and I have several copies of Civil War maps of Columbia, Franklin, Murphreesboro, ect. I gave Col Jackson a civil war map showing his own house which at that time was the plantation house for five thousand acres across the Duck River and the fact that there were two "lunettes" or semi-circular redoubt right in front of it and a lot of other earthworks around it. I showed him where the road ran from his house, which explained a gulley that then existed.

In 1938 I visited Murphreesboro and found a lot of earth works with water from a recent rain still in the moats.

Have had some correspondence with Mr. Bearss, at Vicksburg which I have enjoyed very much. He had some banded and rifled guns, which were exact duplicates of two guns in Raleigh, N.C., at the state capital, that were old smoothbore 32-pounders, made in the 1830's that were banded and rifled by the Brooke system of "Inclined Planes" instead of the usual lands and grooves of rifling. In fact they were really among the first Brooke guns, for Brooke banded and rifled guns at the Tredegar Foundry, at Rich, ond, for a year before he made the first two 7pinch Brooke Rifled guns for the ram Merrimac, that revolutionized naval warfare.

Mr. Bearss had always wanted some Brooke guns at Vicksburg and it made him very happy to find he had some.

Will, perhaps, run over to see you when I visit Columbia in the summer.

Can send you any number of these sheets on guns, also, if you wish it, a summary of guns made at the Selma Naval Foundry. I know every gun made at the Selma naval foundry by its first name,

It there are any guns at your park, or at any other part you know of would appreciate it if you can send me the marks on the trunnions and the muzzle and on tip of the barrel. It will be almost as good as a trip there.

With best regards

Auld sincerely

Walter W. Stephen
24 Main St.
Oxford, Ala.



In reply refer to:
H 2215

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Stones River National Military Park
Murfreesboro, Tennessee

April 14, 1958

Colonel Waverly H. Jackson
8 Brown Building
Columbia, Tennessee

Dear Colonel Jackson:

The information you mailed concerning the cannon is the most complete factual information I have been able to find. Surprisingly enough, I believe less is known of the Civil War cannon than any other aspect of the Civil War. I am forwarding the information on to the Regional Office for them to copy and distribute to the other Civil War areas.

I will be over as soon as the new pick-up arrives which should be this month or next. Thanks again for the information. The area is still extremely quiet.

Sincerely,

John T. Willett

Mr Stephens
Am sure Willett would like
to have another copy for
his files. Have

These
initials

Oxford, Ala..

June 4, 1958

Mr. John T. Willett
Dept., Stones River National Military Park
Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Dear Friend:

I am very happy that the copy of what little I have found out about Civil War cannon ~~had-s-~~ has been copied and sent to all the Civil War parks, and feel like assembling this has now really done some good, as the type of men that should know about these marks and their meaning, in case they do not know about them, now have access to them.

Thank you beyond measure for sending me the marks on your three guns.

Two of them were made at the Tredegar Iron Works, at Richmond, Va.. The marks J. R. A. & Co., means General Joseph R. Anderson and Co., (General Anderson commanded the Tredegar Works), also the T. F. means the Tredegar Foundry. The other figures, of course are the dates and the weights. There is a 4.2-inch (30--pounder rifled) gun not at Fort Morgan, at Mobile Bay, with the same marks on it.

With regard to the gun made at the Macon Arsenal there are two 12-pound Napoleons in a private collection of a Mr. R. U. Darby II, at a place called Big Pool, Md, that were made at Macon. ~~One Both weigh 1162-~~ 1162 pounds each.

one of

One is No. 17 (while yours is No. 15) and both of them have the mark J. C. C. on them. Whose initials that is is something I am going to try to find out. The other had No. 27 on the muzzle and has the initials R. M. C. on it. This is the initials of Maj. or Col. Richard M. Cuyler who had command of the Macon arsenal.

Thank you so much for sending me the marks, for I enjoy ~~getting~~ getting the inscriptions on old cannon more than I can describe. If it is not too much trouble I would appreciate it beyond measure if you can write to the superintendents or directors of some of the other parks, if it is not too much trouble and ask them to send me the markings on some of ~~their~~ guns, if it is not too much trouble. I already have the marks on a number of guns at Vicksburg and Petersburg.

I am extremely interested in getting some of the marks from Brooke guns that were made at the Tredegar Works at Richmond, Va. I have a complete history of every Brooke gun made at Selma and every detail of its manufacture.

Official civil war records record the guns that were on the Confederate ironclad Tennessee (at Mobile.) The bow and stern pivot guns were No. S-10 and S-5, 7-inch Brooke rifles that were the first two guns shipped from Selma in January, 1864. The four broadside 6.4-inch Brooke guns were certainly made at Richmond. Official correspondence by at least two Confederate officers say that all the 6.4-inch broadside guns on the Tennessee were in place before any 6.4-inch gun was shipped from Selma, besides, these guns were dated 1863 before any guns at all were made at Selma Naval foundry. Also the numbers do not correspond, with one exception to any 6.4-inch gun from Selma.

broadsides guns, mounted on iron Marsilly Carraishes (also character-
the Richmond foundry) were numbered:

6.4-inch Brooke gun	No. 49	1863	10,550 lbs
6.4- " "	No. 35	1863	10,790 "
6.4- " "	No. 47	1863	10,680 "
6.4- " "	No. --	1863	10,675 "

Each one of these had the same "proof-mark"

P
A D B

About a year ago I had some correspondence with Mr. Ralston B. Lattimore, who very kindly sent me a picture of what must have been a 6.4-inch Brooke now at Fort Pulaski. It was originally at Fort Thunderbolt. He said the marks on it were illegible.

It must have been made at the Tredegar Iron works at Richmond, and is at present mounted on the parapet at Fort Pulaski.

Records of the Selma Naval foundry show that 53 Brooke guns were shipped to Mobile from there: Rifled guns 15 6.4-inch, 39 7-inch and, the last gun they started, just one 11-inch. Of smoothbore Brooke guns, five 8-inch (made from rifled 6.4-inch guns they spoiled while rifling them), five 10-inch and four 11-inch.

S-

Of these there is a 7-inch rifled gun, No. 95, at Choctaw Bluff, on the Alabama River, in Clarke County, Ala, still at old Fort Stonewall that was situated there to protect the approach to Selma. Another 7-inch Brooke rifle is now at Fort Morgan, on the east side of the entrance of Mobile Bay. This is No. S-89, and this gun and S-95 were at Choctaw Bluff when Federal forces got to this place after Mobile surrendered. They are mentioned in official army records, Series I, Part II, Vol. XLIX, page 496. There is also a 6.4-inch Brooke rifle at Jackson, Ala., in Clarke County. It was at Choctaw Bluff and was thrown into the Alabama River by the Confederates and recovered a long time afterward by a "Snag" boat. It is S-96. There is an 8-inch smoothbore Brooke gun at a ghost town called Gainesville, on the Tombigbee River. It is No. S-26 and was made by reaming out a 6.4-inch Brooke rifle after the rifling tool slipped and damaged the bore. How it got to Gainesville is a mystery. I suspect that when Mobile surrendered one of three ex-blockade runners (side-wheel steamers) that fled up the river from Mobile carried it. One of them, or some other boat, carried 80 barrels of powder up from Mobile to Gainesville, according to official records.

Charlotte, N.C.

A 6.4-inch Brooke rifle, No. S-34 was shipped to ~~Augusta, Ga.~~ and a 7-inch rifle No. S-36 was shipped to Augusta, Ga.

A 6.4-inch Brooke rifle No. S-53 and a 7-inch Brooke rifle were shipped to Peedee Bridge, S. C., and were apparently on the gunboat Peedee when she was blown up near the end of the war at Mars Bluff, S.C. The boiler, the anchor and other objects have been recovered but the guns have not.

Two 7-inch rifles, S-81 and S-111 (the last gun shipped by rail from Selma) were shipped to Columbus Ga and were on the gunboat Chattahoochee.

They were recovered from her wreck 12 miles below Columbus Ga. in the Chattahoochee River in 1910 and are at the Jordan High School there.

6.4-inch rifled Brooke guns S-85 and S-102 and rifled 7-inch guns (Brooke S-88, S-98 and S-98 were also shipped to Columbus and are presumably in the river 32 miles below that city where the ironclad Muscogee was burned. Also another 6.4-inch rifle, apparently from Richmond, for it was made before 1864.

S-61, A 6.4-inch Brooke rifle and S-73 a 10-inch smoothbore and S-80, a

Wilmington, N. C.

7-inch Brooke smoothbore were shipped to ~~Richmond~~ and are apparently finished forever now.

Incidentally the chairman of the County Historical Commission at Wilmington wrote me that no cannon existed now that were at Wilmington during the Civil War and I was able to make him happy by sending him pictures of two guns from Fort Caswell that are now at Raleigh. They were old 32-pounders handed and rifled by the Brooke system.

Four Brooke 7-inch rifles were sent to Charleston from Selma. They were numbers S-70, S-74, S-76 and S-86. One of them, S-76 still remains on the "Battery". Retired Admiral R. Bentham Simons recently wrote an article in a Charleston paper correcting the idea that this gun had been made at Richmond. (After I wrote him about it.)

S-87, a 10-inch Brooke smoothbore and S-97, an eleven-inch Brooke smoothbore, tremendous guns, weighing more than 21,000 and 23,000 pounds each, were shipped to Charleston, but ended up in Columbus, Ga., and are now on the courthouse square.

Well, hope all this had not bored you. Am planning to go to Columbia, Tenn., in July, and on the way back will come by Murphreesboro for a little while at least to see you.

Sincerely

*There is a Capital Road Mill road
which runs along the bay for some
short miles*

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Stones River National Military Park
Murfreesboro, Tennessee

May 30, 1958

Mr. Walter Stephens
Oxford, Alabama

Dear Mr. Stephens:

I received your copies of the information you have compiled on Civil War Cannon. This is the most complete collection of this sort I have found. Colonel Jackson also sent me a copy. I forwarded this information on to the Regional Office and they had verifax copies made and sent to all the Civil War area in the National Park System.

Colonel Jackson has mentioned your name so often I almost consider you an acquaintance. The first time it is convenient I wish you would drop by the area and we will go over it together. It is always a pleasure to discuss the Civil War era with someone who has an unusual interest in the period.

The markings on the guns in the area are as follows:

1. No. 15 - Macon Arsenal 1863 - J. G. C. 1175
2. J. R. A. & Co. - TF - 1693 - 1862
3. J. R. A. & Co. - TF - 1694 - 1862

Very truly yours,

John T. Willett
John T. Willett

Supt.

Oxford, Ala.

August 19, 1957

Mr. Ralston B. Lattimore
Superintendent, the Fort
Pulaski National Monument
P. O. Box 204
Savannah Beach, Georgia

Dear Mr. Lattimore:

I wish to express my extreme appreciation and thanks for your immediate reply to my letter inquiring about Brooke guns at your interesting park, and for the photograph of a Brooke gun that you so thoughtfully sent me, which is now at Fort Pulaski and was once at Fort Thunderbolt.

It looks like a 6.4-inch rifled gun and must have been made at the Tredegar foundry. It is a typical doubled-banded gun built up out of wrought iron rings or hoops. It is on record that a 7-inch Brooke rifle, at 360 yards, fired a 117 pound solid projectile, shaped pretty much like shells are now, through 8 inches of wrought iron and 18 inches of wood. 7-inch Brooke rifles sank the monitor Keokuk at Charleston in 1853, and another one, at Fort Morgan, at Mobile Bay, disabled the US cruiser Oneida and sank the US gunboat Philippi. Mr. Bearss, the historian at Vicksburg, wrote me, also, that a Brooke rifle sank the US river ironclad Cincinnati.

So far I have found nine of the Brooke guns that were shipped from the Confederate Naval foundry at Selma, Ala., from January, 1864 to rather late in the doomed days of March, 1865. These guns were dated with the year in which they were finished, and were marked with their caliber in Roman numerals, on each trunnion. Most of them, also, were marked with the letters "C. ap R. J.", the initials of Commander Catesby ap R. Jones, who had charge of the Selma foundry.

Have never seen a Richmond Brooke gun, but there is on record in the official naval records of the civil war, Series 1, Volume 21, page 552, the markings on four 6.4-inch Brooke rifled guns that constituted the broadside battery of the CS ironclad Tennessee that fought at Mobile.

These guns were certainly made at Richmond, as they were dated 1863 and had been installed on the Tennessee (according to Admiral Buchanan and another officer) by January 30, 1864, whereas no 6.4-inch Brooke gun was shipped from Selma until late Feb. or March, 1864.

They were marked:

6.4-inch Brooke	No. 49	1863	P/ADB	10,550 lbs
6.4-inch Brooke	No. 35	1863	P/ADB	10,790 lbs
6.4-inch Brooke	No. 47	1863	P/ADB	10,680 lbs
6.4-inch Brooke	No. ----	1863	P/ADB	10,675 lbs.

al numbers, also do not check with the numbers of guns made at Selma, which I have, with the history and disposition of each gun made there. I have a microfilm copy of two volumes of records of the Selma foundry that I have.

The Mark P ADB is apparently that of an inspector whose initials were A. D. B. who proved the guns.

There is, at Fort Morgan, Alabama, at the entrance of Mobile Bay, a 4.2-inch Parrott-type rifled gun that seems to have been made at Richmond.

It had 1862 on the right trunnion and JRA on its right trunnion. The "J. R. A." is the initials of Gen. Joseph R. Alexander, who had charge of the Tredegar ironworks and, of course "T. F." means "Tredegar Foundry."

Hope all this is not boring, but mention it to illustrate my interest in the subject.

Incidentally the bow and stern pivot guns on the Confederate ironclad Tennessee were 7-inch rifles, No. S-10 that was shipped from Selma to Mobile on Jan. 22, 1864, and No. S-5, which was shipped from Selma to Mobile Jan. 8, 1864, this being the first gun shipped from Selma.

Now that I have gotten this far I might mention that the following guns were shipped from Selma: Brooke

To	Rifled guns		Smoothbore			
	6.4-inch	7-inch	8-inch	10-inch	11-inch	
Mobile, Ala..	9	29	5	5	4	52
Augusta, Ga.		1				1
Charlotte, NC	1					1
Peedee Bridge, SC	1	1				2
Wilmington, NC		1		1	1	3
Charleston, SC		4		1	1	6
Columbus, Ga.	2	5				7

The above should be correct, although I might have made some errors in reading the ghost pages in a micro-film reader of the Selma foundry records, that were written in long hand and in many cases two ways across the same page by Comm. Batesby ap R. Jones and other Confederate officers.

The 10 and 11-inch guns shipped to Charleston were mislaid on the way and are now, Numbers S-87 and S-97, in the courthouse square at Columbus, Ga.. Two of the 7-inch guns, Numbers S-81 and S-111 were recovered in 1910 from the wreck of the gunboat Chattahoochee 12 miles below Charleston in the river and are now in front of the Jordan school there. 7-inch rifle No. S-76 in Charleston, on the "Battery." It was shipped to Charleston Sept. 19, 1864.

Well, enough of this rambling. In October am going to write to you again, after return from your trip. Again thanking you

Sincerely

Walter W. Stephen
24 Main St.
Oxford, Alabama

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Fort Pulaski National Monument
P. O. Box No. 204
Savannah Beach, Georgia

August 15, 1957.

Mr. Walter W. Stephen,
24 Main Street,
Oxford, Alabama.

Dear Mr. Stephen:

Fort Pulaski does have a Brooke rifle and I am enclosing a snapshot taken early in 1940 soon after the piece was mounted.

Unfortunately the rifle is covered with many layers of black enamel which make all markings indecipherable, nor can I find the reports pertaining to it. I am leaving shortly for the National Park Service biennial conference and when I return in October I will make a more extended search for the records.

Meanwhile, I can say only that the piece was identified as having been made at the Tredegar Works, Richmond, Va., fairly early in the War and was mounted at the Thunderbolt Battery on the Wilmington River about 4 miles southeast of Civil War time Savannah. The battery formed a part of the strong secondary line of defenses of Savannah to which the Confederate forces withdrew after the landing of Federal forces on Hilton Head Island, S. C., November 7, 1861.

The rifle was sold to a Savannah junk dealer for scrap iron and was purchased late in 1939 by the National Park Service. There were no Brooke rifles mounted at Fort Pulaski during the Civil War. The fort armament, however, did include two 24-pounder Blakely rifles (which we have) which arrived on the Fingal in mid-November 1861, the last ship to run the blockade into the Port of Savannah.

Our Brooke rifle, by the way, is an 80-pounder. It is mounted on an 8-inch columbiad carriage and chassis.

Very sincerely,

Ralston B. Lattimore
Ralston B. Lattimore,
Superintendent.

TRINITY CHURCH
ALPINE
ST. MARYS CHURCH
CHILDERSBURG

ST. ANDREWS CHURCH
SYLACAUGA
ST. JAMES CHURCH
ALEXANDER CITY

ST. PETERS CHURCH
REV. R. F. BLACKFORD, RECTOR
TALLADEGA, ALA.

Oct 24, 1953

Mr Walter W. Stephen,

Anniston,

My Dear Mr Stephen,

Thank you so much for the notes Miss McAlpine has just given me from you. I am looking forward with the utmost of pleasure to perusing them in detail.

The period is one that I feel we should all know much more about and reminds me of the old song "You don't know how much you have to know in order to know how little you know." This territory in which we live has so much vital and absorbing history in it that it rather provokes me that so little is known about it by the average person. I had an example of what I mean in an address made here recently by a gentleman who referred to a covered bridge, it is true it was at Horse Shoe Bend, as "One of the most historic spots and bridges in all Alabama". When I asked him what was so historic about it and what had happened there to make it historic he said "Well it is interesting and old and long" but could tell no more about it.

We need so much more of what you are doing in getting together notes.

Again thanking you,

I remain,

Very sincerely yours,

Randolph F. Blackford.
Randolph F. Blackford

Aug 15, 1958

Dear Mr. Stephen:

It was delightful to hear from you some 6 weeks ago & I apologize for not sending a quicker reply. When I tell you what they have done to me meanwhile you will understand & forgive me.

You will note from the return on the envelope that I write to you from Texas. I have been here about 10 days as Plant Manager of a small electric furnace plant that is a partially owned subsidiary of the company I have worked for since leaving Anniston.

During the month of June I was in our large furnace plant at Rockwood, Tenn. It was during this time that I received your letter and the long hours & the fact that I did not get home except week ends resulted in no answer.

I am sorry that I will have no chance

(2)

To visit Chicamunga Battle field or other historic spots in Chattanooga. I will return briefly to start packing our belongings to come to Houston & that will probably be my only chance to go back for some time.

If you would care to you will find that a drive to Chattanooga will take less than 3 hours & there are some very fine Motels near the base of Lookout Mtn. I am sure you would very much enjoy a stay of a day or two.

Chicamunga Battlefield is literally strewn with cannon. You will also find some in Point Park at the tip of Lookout Mountain. There are quite a few along Missionary Ridge and a few on Orchard Knob. Also several on Cameron Hill overlooking the river.

The unofficial historian is a lady who writes rather regular articles for the paper, Zella Armstrong. You may know of her.

I am keeping your letter in my

brief case and if you think that I may be able to obtain information for you here in the Houston area I will be glad to do so.

It is delightful news that you continue your many activities but must say it is not unexpected.

You may know that for several years I wrote articles for magazines but this is pretty much a thing of the past.

I have regularly added to my shop & have a well equipped power shop for both wood & to some extent for metal.

During the last 3 or 4 years I have made articles of jewelry, rings etc of silver & gold and have a rather well equipped shop for this activity. Have also tried my hand at oil painting.

Lorraine sends her regards to you both
Poland Laumen

Let me add this:

Tell anyone interested in the trip to Mobile that Now the azaleas are just about at their best. Another two weeks and it will all be over

139 Florence Place
- ON THE AZALEA TRAIL -
MOBILE 17, ALA.
8 March 1953

Dear Mr. Stephen:

Many thanks for your kind letter of Feb. 19. I was equally interested in the enclosed write-up of the old cannon, especially since I had heard the story from you personally. This copy will be added to the several other invaluable notes you gave me from time to time.

Several persons here have now seen this piece, and the general belief is that the cannon which was moved to the fire station yard is still there. I am going to try to check personally on this - and I will let you know what I find.

One person who saw this article was Mr. N. H. Holmes, the architect (a member of the Ala. Historical Assn - and has written several historical bits himself: - one on the ill-fated de Luna expedition). He remarked that someone had told him about such a type of smooth-

bore being fitted with a rifled sleeve. by having the cast piece heated and the sleeve cooled (ice was all that was available in those days) then the parts quickly fitted together.

Doubtless all sorts of schemes were tried -

Let me add my appreciation of your good wishes for my welfare. So far as work is concerned there is a considerable amount and good variety. All sorts of engineering is in demand hereabout today. I do not have any control instrumentation - nor any to look forward to - but lately I've been working on changes in drawing details and specifications right in your line --- changing a wet-pipe sprinkler system to dry-pipe.

Otherwise, too, matters are doing rather well personally. It is nice to be back home, but I should be less than honest if I didn't admit I miss the Monsanto crowd quite a lot, along with some other very good friends in Amiston. The Amiston Plant has some of my favourite people on its staff.

Thank you again - and with warmest personal regards,
I am - most sincerely yours, Andrew Douglas

①

Waynesboro, Ga.
Jan. 9-1937

Dear Walter,-

I received your letter of Dec. 28-1936 and was delighted to hear from you. It seems like a long long time since I heard from you, however, I saw your picture in the papers with the other Fire Chiefs once. A lot of water has gone over the dam since we were together, I reckon you know that (Bud) Hughes Lord (of Dublin) died a few weeks before Christmas, and Uncle Jim Everett (of Fort Valley) passed away last year. Also little John Everett died too. You remember him! He used to clerk at the Gray Hardware Store for my father. I believe

②

he was clerking there when we made the first glider ever made in Georgia (Have you got a picture of it yet?) Those were days of wonder and enchantment and thrills but they have slipped back into the ocean of time. C. G. is working in Atlanta with the government. I think he counts the government's money. He is doing very well. He had to have his tonsils slipped out but I think he is O.K. now. He has two daughters. Myrtis, his oldest, married a Mr. Hazelrigg last year. Little Lallie is just about 12 years old and is doing fine. His wife (Lallie Jones) is a little bit sickly. She had an operation some years ago and I don't think she expects to be better without a corrective operation

(3)

My family is getting along very well. Inez seems to be getting better since we left Dublin, and Laurel Dean is now 11 years old and doing fine. Mrs. Frances Dean, my mother-in-law lives with us now and Peggy Dean, my sister-in-law is with the WPA in Augusta. I have two brothers-in-law in New York City. One is Comptroller of the Columbian Broadcasting System.

I glad to hear that you and yours are doing so well. I am glad to hear about Oscar and his family, and Claude Houser - I had lost sight of Claude. I'll have to look him when I go to Atlanta. I'll venture that Net is having a big time in her own home. I know she must get

(4)

thrill out of it. Antiques - well, Brother - we've got 'em here in our parsonage. We've got antique chairs, and everything. They are pretty to look at but not very comfortable sitters. This old house here suits me. It reminds me of Grand-pa Gray's, I like it. And I like the folk too. There are lots of Grays here and they claim kin with me - so I feel at home. The night before Christmas my Church caught on fire and burned to the ground. It was a loss of about \$60,000. We had only \$33,000 insurance, however we collected 100% and are planning to rebuild. The folk here have been good too us. I preached by invitation in the First Presbyterian

(5)

Church Christmas Sunday night and then twice next Sunday. I am now holding all services in the Waynesboro School Building. All the Churches were kind and offered to help us in every way - the Baptist, the Episcopal, Everybody's Mission at all. We are getting along fine as could be expected and we are going to rebuild at once. I'm getting letters from various concerns trying to sell us pipe-organ, pianos, seats, windows etc. Well - we are coming along very well.

I have been sick for about 12 months but I am gradually getting better. I had high blood pressure and the doctors put me in the hospital and relieved me of all the ready cash but didn't do me any good. I found a great German

(6)

Specialist in Atlanta who has helped me lots, Man - he knows his onions on heart-trouble, kidneys and blood-pressure. I think he is the best in the world.

Well - while I was sick I got to collecting jokes. You ought to see my book. It is great all right.

And I never did ask you if you ever studied magic. I don't mean magic of the devilish kind but magical effects and experiments. It is quite interesting and a good pastime. I use it to help interest the indifferent ones. I have lots of magician friends and they were kind to me when I was sick.

I have energy and enthusiasm. I haven't failed to be at a single

(7)

preaching service in 12 months in spite of sickness. The Lord has certainly been with me and helped me. He is more real to me than ever before. I love my work, my friends, and everybody. It is glorious to be alive. I sometimes dream and I believe the promise is to us - 'your young men shall dream dreams' It is inspiring to be carried along on the wings of his love - wafted above all temptation, and evil, and pain - lost in His infinite love.

With regard to radio my best is somewhat mundane. I have a little old table model (#995) and I listen to Amos and Andy, and Orphan Annie, and Lum and Abner.

(8)

Sometimes I listen to the President or some humorous - or near humorous clown. I have a Majestic and a S.W. Atwater-Kent Attachment. I had to give the doctors all the money I could scrape up and so I haven't dived very deep in radio.

Write to me again and come to see us and bring Net. I would like to see you all but riding is against me. I came near being transferred to the Florida Conference but I think it was for the best that I remain here. Send me some good old time jokes like we used to tell. Remember us to Net and Oscar and the others and let me hear from you again.

Your old friend,
Lawrence C. Gray

Caldwell Delaney
109 North Lafayette Street
Mobile 17, Alabama

May 10, 1953

Dear Mr. Stephen,

Many thanks for the data and maps. I have gone into them with a great deal of interest, and I am happy to have them in my collection.

I know that I shall never have a complete file on Mobile, but every addition brings the impossible a little closer to the possible.

Your courtesy is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Caldwell Delaney

336 Devonshire,
San Antonio, Tex.
30 Nov. 1956.

The Rev Dr. Walter W. Stevens,
Oxford, Ala.

Dear Walter,

It was so good and kind of you to write me recently; both about yourself and about such an old friend as Mr. Palmer Gallaird. Here is a suggestion that may make you about \$20. That information on old cannons will be of interest to such private military quarterlies as The Coast Artillery Journal, if there is one; The Field Artillery Journal, wherever it is located (you can get information at Camp McClellan nearby; and certainly to the Infantry Journal, Infantry Bldg. Washington, D.C. Send in your MS and identify yourself as a minister with an interest in history.

Have just enjoyed a delightful visit from our three grandchildren.

The same to you,

Gratefully and affectionately,

Billy Rivière
Billy Rivière.

ov
Boa
Lec
a num
part of
technical
some of them
to be tried in
When I have, se
there (where I use
12 years old, in whi
used 1½-inch leader (I
modern now) I felt like
To learn this I did at
a city fire department,

Oxford, Ala..

Jan 1, 1957

The Rev. Col. Willaim T. Riviere
336 Devonshire, San Antonio, Texas.

Dear Billy:

Appreciated and enjoyed so much your letter of Nov. 30.. There is so much I would like to hear from and about you and that I would like to write you that I hardly know how to begin this.

Thank you so much for thinking that I am a Presbyterian minister. I consider that more of a compliment than anything else I can think of, and regret to say that I have never attained to this. My father was one and a member of the faculty of the old Alabama Presbyterian College that went out of business from lack of sustinence durin the first world war. He, like your father, was a remarkable man, building up small churches in many frontier places until my brother and I became old enough to go to college (we went to school to him, for I never finished any term at any school before I went to college) when he settled down in Oxford for the last twenty years of his life.

We wished that I would have been a minister so, after I had finished college and had done some graduate work I went to the seminary at Columbia for one year, which I remember so pleasantly. I hoped that I would feel called to the ministry but never did and did not return the second year. My association with you there was an inspiration, after knowing you in Mobile when we were little boys at Miss Nannie Baker's school. Miss Nannie was certainly a wonderful and lovely woman. I remember in the spring of 1914, when she was on business in Anniston me.

From March, 1918 (when I came from the army while the first world war was still on) to Dec. 31, 1955 I worked for a chem comp ny, then retiring. I was still a metallurgist and chemist, research chemist, personnel director and chief and several other things. During the first world war I contributed a little to developing a smelting process that had quite a bit to do with producing more than half of the manganese steel made during this time and in 1919 I was an assistant to a research chemist who developed a process for making phosphoric acid that revolutionized that industry all over the world.

You may recall that I had a hobby about studying fire protection, like you did military science. This is so incredible I hesitate to mention it but for many years I was to the fire business something like Sherlock Holmes was to the detecting business (although far from being as good as he was.) I carried on for several decades a free consulting business for fire chiefs and fire officers over the United States and Canada (and Cuba and Porto Rico) was a member of the Board of directors of the International Assh. of Fire Chiefs for some time, Lecturer and Instructor at fire colleges and schools in several states and wrote a number of articles on fire protection for technical magazines. At the early part of the second world war I was in the room where a committee from various technical organizations and government bureaus made the civil defense rules, or some of them, for fire defense against air raids which, fortunately, did not have to be tried in this country.

When I have, several times, made lectures at the Mobile fire school I felt that there (where I used to keep a note book about all the fires I saw when I was 12 years old, in which is still noted that the Mobile fire department, in 1902 used 1 1/2-inch leader lines of hose and had a salvage corps, practices considered modern now) I felt like I had done everything I ever wanted to do.

To learn this I did an apprenticeship of fighting over a thousand fires with a city fire department, and have a number of scars from this.

had charge of fire departments in chemical plants of a division of the Monsanto Chemical Company at, at various times, Anniston, Ala., Columbia, Tenn., Birmingham, St. Louis, Mo., Detroit, Mich, Dayton, Ohio, Boston, Mass, Camden, N. J., Newark, N. J, Soda Springs, Idaho, Texas City, Texas and visited plants as far as Montreal. Had charge of fighting the fire and finding several hundred dead people at the Texas City disaster in 1947. (I was there when the second nitrate ship blew up.) Have twice boarded gasoline tank ships while they were on fire and have looked after putting out burning oil tanks that were several hundred feet wide. I mention merely all this to show that this was a hobby of mine.

Although I could not be a minister I am thankful that I have been able to do a little in the way of helping people. As a personnel director I, for many years, had much to do with the persona and family affairs of several thousand men all over the country. I advised them, looked after them and their families when they were sick or in trouble, help bury them when they were dead and did what I could for their families. I got divorces for some of them, kept more from being divorced and separating from their wives and got a number of them back together again after they did. I got a lot of them, especially among my many colored friends, out of jail. One of these once wrote me a note--"Dear Mr. Steve, I am in the jale. Pleas come and get me out. I will wait here until you come and get me out."

For a period about twenty years ago I had a Sea Scout ship (as you know, a branch of the Boy Scout for older boys.) Was in contact during that time with about fifty boys and did what I could to help and guide them. We made, during several summers two weeks training trips on Coast Guard cutters and did just about what the naval reserve does. I taught all of them close order and extended order drill and what I could of military science. When world war came along several got naval commissions from this and all of them (except two were research chemists) were naval or army officers. Some of them stayed in service and are commanders and Lieyt. Colonels and Colonels now.

Please forgive me for saying so much about myself but thought you would like to know what I have been doing. Still, I regret that I could have filled a greater field of usefulness as a minister, as you have.

As, perhaps, I wrote you, have been married 37 years very happily, with no children but with two nephews and a niece and a cousin who was like our son. As, perhaps I wrote you, my nephews and my cousin had quite a bit of army and naval service.

Please write me about yourself, Billy, and some of the remarkable things you have done that I wish I could have. ~~and writing like my mother and grandmother did.~~

Thanks so much for your advice about the infantry journal and others. Will try them, possibly, with an article about the Brooke guns made at Selam. Received a communication last week that the ditor of the Birmingham News weekly magazine had accepted an article I wrote about old cannon in Alabama.

Still I remember and remember Mobile, and wish I could spend hours talking to you about it. One memory is of lying awake in a big poster bed at 253 N Conception Street. Watching the shadow of the wardrobe top on the high wall from the flickering fire in the fireplace. Hearing the clop! clop! of horses going by, the distant drone of the little street cars, a ~~train, far away, puffing and~~ switch engine, far away, puffing and starting and stopping and the sound of coupling freight cars and...the... the deep, long, indescribable, roaring and rolling of the whistle of a river streamer, echoing and echoing, and echoing down the years to me still.

Still I enjoy being in Mobile, in a side street where there are still some of the ancient iron verandas and the sparrows chatter and the live oak leaf shadows lace lazily on the pavement

I can remember when there were still some horse cars in Mobile, and the steam "dummy" that ran to Spring Hill. Spring Hill is still a beautiful place. It used to seem like the "enchanted forest" to me.

My cousin Wallace Parhem died during the last few years. His hobby was very old bibles and church manuals. At one time he had four copies of the ancient "breeches" edition of the bible. He gave away all or nearly all of his bibles to Presbyterian church institutions. He also gave a complete file of Mobile city directories (from the 1850's to a few years ago) to some historical institution in Mobile and his sister Melissa has now another set he had.

Incidentally from some of these I found out that the first fire station in Mobile was a two story building on Joachim Street back of the hotel. This building was torn down recently.

In 1939 it was possible to find several of the redoubts of the middle line of defense around Mobile, but nearly all of them are gone now. Recently a building project eliminated Fort McDermott, the last part of the southern defenses at Spanish Fort. Some of the outlying Federal trenches still remain, however. I can remember when the "battery ditches" were all around Mobile. I have an 1880 something copy of the Mobile Register in which some one expressed the opinion that the water in the "battery ditches" was in some way causing yellow fever.

I still have a membership card of Major Spratley, my step-grandfather, in the "Can't Get Away" which was composed of people who stayed in Mobile during the yellow fever epidemics.

I recall that in a church bazaar or something like it where there was a show he was a sleight of hand performer and you, I seem to remember, was his barker.

Please forgive this aimless letter and write me about your self, who I have admired so much, and your remarkable combination of being a minister, a scholar and a soldier.

Am enclosing a few poems of mine. After I knew you at Columbia I did very little writing for many years until a decade or so ago (except some technical articles on chemistry, history and fire protection.) During the last ten years or so I have been fortunate enough to sell some poems, including 27 to the New York Times, but have never approached writing like my mother and grandmother did.

With very best regards and wishing you and yours everything fine for the coming year.

Billy Parhem
Billy Parhem

Walter W. Stephen
24 Main St.
Oxford, Alabama

6821 Blenheim Road
Baltimore 12, Maryland
March 31, 1958

Mr. Walter W. Stephen
24 Main Street
Oxford, Alabama

Dear Mr. Stephen:

I am deeply grateful for your very kind letter of March 27 with its many interesting enclosures. It is indeed heartening to receive such a helpful response to what appears to many as a bothersome request.

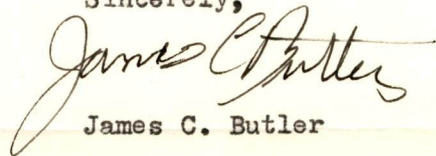
I am writing now to Dr. Brannon and Mr. Plummer in the hope that they too can provide me with some material. Interestingly enough, the man you mentioned from Baltimore, Mr. W. E. Geoghegan, lives amazingly close to me and I shall be in touch with him shortly.

You mentioned that you could provide me with a copy of the material about Alexander and Hunley from the book "From Mobile's Past." While I certainly do not wish to burden you on my account, at the same time I would greatly appreciate this material since it sounds as if this book would not be easy to come by in these parts.

Thank you, too, for the photograph which is most interesting.

If I can ever be of help to you, please feel free to call on me. And thank you again for your wonderful cooperation.

Sincerely,



James C. Butler

JCB/jo

SUNNYSLOPE

Hillwood Road at Drury Lane,
Spring Hill, ALABAMA.

Sept. 3rd, 1948.

Dear Walter:


Sis and I enjoyed your letter. "Such is history" is right, and it is interesting that you have finally gotten the old cannons set in their proper niche. I'm wondering if you have given the information somewhere where it will keep things straight from now on.

I have been playing with a hobby for the past year also. I read the Episcopal Prayer Book pretty regularly, and it intrigued me that, in the version of the Psalter in the P.B., the wicked are led to say, "Tush, God will not find us!" That "tush" has me up a tree. I knew it meant "heck" in 16th century conversation but I could find it in none of the many translations I had. So, as no Episcopalian to whom I talked knew where it originated, I dug in for myself and found it was the 1540 Great Bible. In an English catalogue I found three, and bought them all. I, of course, send all such to the Historical Foundation of the Presbyterian Churches, in Montreat, for their library. Then I located a reprint of the first English P.B. of 1549, a full comparison of that with the second, a facsimile of the 1662 revision, a reprint of the 1785 first in America, an original 1800 without the 39 Articles and an original of 1809 or 1810 with them, an original of the 1637 Laud's Scottish which started the second Reformation, and a Sturt P.B. which is the best from standpoint of art, also a P.B. of 1776 which was in use in American till the one used here now was agreed upon. I have since bought a couple of old Bibles, a 1537 Matthews with only six leaves and the first title missing, and today I received fifteen photostats from the British Museum of the missing ones. And I also got two (one in the original binding with brass corner pieces etc.) of the second issue of the Authorised - called "She" Bibles. The three first ones I got were the 1540 Great Bible, beautifully bound and I got photostats to complete it. Then the 1549 reprint of the Matthews Bible (getting an original, as I said above, later, i.e., published in 1537) with Becke notes; and finally the last edition revised by Coverdale, printed in London in 1550, and this too I completed with photostats. I could not get photostats to complete the "She" Bible from the British Museum for their copy was no better than the two I had, but I expect to try the Bodleian Library on that. It has been fun, and I bet Eugene would enjoy seeing them all!

Hope you and Net had a good time. We are sitting here tonight with storm warnings up and a hurricane out in the Gulf at 92 - 26 which the Weather Bureau lost and just found again this morning. They've been bragging a mighty lot about their new and improved hurricane service, then lose one sitting right on their coattails. Glad you got in your vacation before all this came.

Love to you and Net from Sis and me.

Affectionately,


Wallace.



ORDNANCE

THE MAGAZINE OF SCIENTIFIC
AND INDUSTRIAL PREPAREDNESS

Published since 1920 by the American Ordnance Association
PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE AT 17TH STREET, WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

Mills Blake

OFFICE OF THE EDITOR

August 20, 1958

Mr. Walter W. Stephen,
24 Main Street,
Oxford, Ala.

Dear Mr. Stephen:

Thank you for your recent letter and the very interesting enclosure on ordnance marks on old guns. We found it extremely interesting and will be most happy to retain it.

We are very sorry, but we do not know the address of the magazine, "Gunner," to which you refer. However, we can suggest a few publications in this country which might be interested in manuscripts of an historical nature:

Guns Magazine,
Publishers' Development Corp.,
8150 N. Central Park Ave.,
Skokie, Ill.

Gunsport,
Magnum Publications, Inc.,
11 West 42nd Street,
New York 36, N. Y.

It was a pleasure to hear from you again. If we can be of any further service to you, please do not hesitate to call upon us.

Very truly yours,

R. K. Smith,
Associate Editor

President
TROY O. RICHARDSON
OAK RIDGE, TENN.

Southwestern Association of Fire Chiefs

International Director
EARL R. MCDANIEL
LEXINGTON, KY.

First Vice-President
C. W. WYRICK
GREENSBORO, N. C.

Division Of

International Association of Fire Chiefs

Secretary-Treasurer
G. A. MITCHELL
OPELIKA, ALA.

Second Vice-President
B. J. PADGETT
ALEXANDRIA, VA.

OFFICE OF
SECRETARY-TREASURER

OPELIKA, ALABAMA

31st of October, 1956

Chief Walter W. Stephen, Retired
24 Main Street
Oxford, Alabama

Dear Chief Walter:

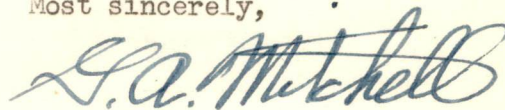
This is to acknowledge your valvued letter of October 24th; your words of encouragement are appreciated very much. I wish that everybody knew what there was to this office as well as you do.

I note what you said about a 24 inch main through Oxford. You must have installed this within the past ten years. Anniston truly has the finest water system I have ever known.

Concerning making you an Active Life Member will be done at either the Board meeting in Miami or the meeting in New York in January. I am not sure just which place it will be taken up, but you may be assured that it will be taken care of.

I do not have the necessary vocabulary to convey to you exactly how I feel about you other than to say of my lifetime associates; I never hope to meet a man more dedicated to the fire service and to humanity than you. Futher, you conduct yourself as an outstanding Christain gentleman and is something we would all do well to emulate. Finally, I am truly glad and a much richer person by having been associated and knowing you for these years. I do trust that God Almighty in his wise wisdom shall look after you in a pleasant retirement for many, many years to come.

Most sincerely,



G. A. Mitchell

GAM/wem

31st of October, 1956

Mr. Roi B. Wooley
Editor
Fire Engineering
305 East 45th Street
New York 17, New York

Dear Roi:

I am writing you with reference to the retirement of my predecessor from active service with the Monsanto Chemical Company who was their Fire Chief and Safety Director, Chief Walter W. Stephen. He was also volunteer Fire Chief of his home city of Oxford, Alabama for many years. In addition to these duties, he served as Sec.-Tres. of the Southeastern Division of the I. A. F. C. for 11 years, 1940 through 1950. He is one of the more learned fire chiefs of his day and our day too and is held in high esteem by firemen everywhere.

As you will recall, for many years he participated in the technical sessions of I. A. F. C. Walter Stephen has endeared himself to all who know him. His life has been one of true dedication to the fire service.

His address is Chief Walter W. Stephen, Retired; 24 Main Street; Oxford, Alabama.

With best wishes to you, Bert, and Fred, I remain

Most sincerely,

GAM/wem

G. A. Mitchell

"Sam Slim"

From column "~~Sam Slim~~" by J. S. Kelly in Anniston Hot Blast

"In 1874 Anniston was Captain Maddox's farm and that was all of it and a rather poor farm at that with the ruins of the old Oxford ~~furnace~~ iron furnace that was demolished by the Yankees' raid standing prominently on the face of the hill east of the present Oxford Lake line."

July 20, 1888- "...Twenty thousand dollars....that is the amount Oxford proposes in buying the W. F. McCully farm one mile east of here and making a lake covering thirty acres, a driving park and so forth...."

April 1, 1889- Reference to horse car line then existing from Oxford to Anniston. It ended at Anniston somewhere about Wilner and 3rd St. Also reference to small lake called Minnelula Lake, on McCully's farm, where a larger lake and park was to be made.

May 30, 1889- April 1, 1889 "The A. O. and O. line have engaged G. D. Harris to survey and locate line from Oxford to the lake..."

May 30, 1889- "...contract let for making the lake. It will cover 15 to 20 acres with an island of an acre and a half to two acres in the center. There will be a drive 20 feet wide all around it. There will be the necessary bath houses and other buildings as soon as they can be erected. The grading of the driving park track (track for horse races) is completed..."

July 30, 1889- " Saw new dummy engine on side track at Oxanna with "Oxford Lake Line" painted on it.....Now everybody may drop 'Anniston, and- Oxford and Oxanna Street Railway' and say 'Oxford Lake Line' and drop 'Minnielula Lake' and say 'Oxford Lake.'

Nov. 30, 1901- ".....there is being built a tank on the hill east of the pavilion (at Oxford Lake) which will be about thirtyfive feet along the ground and will hold gallons and gallons of water which will be supplied to fill it and keep it filled by a pump electrically rigged up at the big spring that supplies the lake.....just get aboard the electric car and go to the lake and cool off....."

Oxford, Ala.

March 21, 1958

The Criterion Mfg. Co.
331 Church St.
Hartford, Conn.,

Dear Sirs:

Your office very kindly quoted to me, on Jan. 31, (in answer to an inquiry) a price of \$ 40.00 on the following:

One 4-inch Dynascope reflecting telescope, with bakelite tube, with finder and with 65X, 130X and 167X eyepieces. Without mount and tripod.

I mailed you, on February 12, a money order for \$ 41.00. One dollar of this was for shipping charges. You very kindly refunded me the one dollar, as this was not enough to cover shipping charges.

I received your valued card of Feb 22, acknowledging the order for shipment No. 185445. (I enclose this card for reference.)

The shipment arrived somewhere about the 1st of March, but I did not get it on that date because I was out of town.

On Tuesday, March 5th I got the shipment from the express office and opened it.

The telescope and finder seemed O.K. but there was only one eye piece in the shipment, the 18 MM 65X Hygens eyepiece.

The 9 MM Ramsden 130X and the 7MM Ramsden 167X eyepieces were ^{not} in the shipment. Although I examined everything carefully I could not find them.

I would have notified you at once but I was, that night, stricken with an illness from which I have just recovered enough to write to you now.

Was my understanding correct that these two eyepieces should have been included? They were in the list I understood you to price at \$ 40.00.

If so I would appreciate it very much if you can ship these two eyepieces. The quotation you sent me was signed " ljk ".

Sincerely

Walter W. Stephen
24 Main St.
Oxford, Ala..

(I did not order the mount as I have an equatorial mount with slow motion controls. Have made observations as an amateur for more than fifty years, once successfully made a six-inch mirror and I ordered your telescope because it looks as good as a number of more expensive ones.)

*But I acknowledged eyepieces
April 2 1958*

Anniston, Ala.

May 18, 1953

Mrs. Florence Slocum Pritchett
2106 Government St., Mobile, Ala.

Dear Mrs. Pritchett:

I have a clipping from the Mobile Register of Feb. 13, 1949 that tells about the "Lady Slocum", the cannon that is now in front of the Confederate museum at 929 Camp St., New Orleans. (Camp St. is parallel to St. Charles St. and a block from it.)

This says that the cannon was named after the wife of Captain Cuthbert Harrison Slocum, of the 5th company of the Washington artillery, of New Orleans.

It was an 8-inch smoothbore gun (muzzle loading) and was located in the "red fort", the central position in the line of trenches and redoubts of Spanish Fort, facing eastward. This line began a little north of where the highway goes to the bridge across the bay. The "Lady Slocum" was the largest gun pointing eastward in the main part of the fort, and is said to have done tremendous execution among the Federal forces in the battle that lasted for three weeks in March and April, 1865. The Confederates abandoned the fort, finally and Mobile surrendered after Lee's surrender at Appomattox, really after the end of the war.

The gun was made at the Confederate arsenal at Selma. It was moved from Spanish Fort in the 1890's and I saw it, when I was a boy, on East Government St. in 1897 or 1898. In 1899 it was moved to New Orleans. There was another gun, a 12-lb field gun, in the "red fort" near it that was called the "Cora Slocum."

Sincerely
Walter W. Stephen
Walter W. Stephen
Box 904
Anniston, Alabama

PS Do you know the name of the boat that your grandfather had during the civil war? Perhaps I could find something about it.

WS



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

FOUNDED BY THOMAS M. OWEN, LL.D., 1901

MONTGOMERY 5, ALABAMA

IN REPLY REFER TO FILE NO.

A910


January 2, 1957

Mr. Walter W. Stephen
24 Main Street
Oxford, Alabama

My dear Mr. Stephen:

Your letter of December 28 has reached here. I am replying at once and want to tell you that two guns are mounted in what is known as the Jordan section of Columbus, at the entrance to the Jordan school. I had a visitor a few days ago, a party who is working on the Chattahoochee and who knew of the interest in the cannon on the Court House grounds. We are anticipating your coming and I will be glad to see you.

Very truly,


Peter A. Brannon,
Director

PAB/ep

W.W.STEPHEN
24 Main St.
Oxford, Ala

Dear Sir:

Thanks for your letter of 7 May 1958. You probably guessed I haven't got well too fast. Was doing better for a while until a kid drove through an intersection into the side of my station wagon. After it tossed me out and rolled over me on our mutual progress into the ditch, I got up and collected some odds and ends of stuff from the car, but subsequently my luck went down again and I've got a meat-hook for a right hand. That's subject to misunderstanding: I've got the hand all right, and I know it's still there because the ---- hurts, but for all the consistent good it is, working, it might as well have stayed in the ditch. Nice luck for a (former) n illustrator. That's why my letters are down to the vanishing point in length and why I've quit "digging". Always nice to hear from you, but I guess I won't be much help in really extensive research...at least until the five-finger joke I'm wearing decides to quit either hemorrhaging or going up like a balloon every time I use it a little too much. Glad to know your luck's improving in the matter of founders' and inspectors' marks. Sorry to write you such a crumby letter, but I figure after ~~WA~~ waiting almost a year you should know a little about what happened. Incidentally, I'm not publicising this business, so you needn't feel bound to tell anybody else about it. Best of luck.

ROGER MARSH
ASK ADVENTURE Magazine

PS: Don't call me "Lefty", ~~STEVEN~~ either! I scragged the left one almost as bad.

RM

Anniston, Ala.

March 21, 1955

Mr. Charles A. Federer, Jr.,
Editor, SKY AND TELESCOPE
Sky Publishing Corporation,
Harvard College Observatory
Cambridge 38, Mass..

Dear Mr. Federer:

With regard to your valued and appreciated letter of March 17 concerning the words "taw" and "plump" (in the poem "Eclipse of the Moon" which I recently sent you) these were terms very well known to youthful marble players a generation or more ago over much of the country.

Funk and Wagnalls standard desk dictionary defines "taw" as "a marble used for shooting." They were generally made of agate and treasured beyond measure by their users.

To "plump" was the act of shooting or projecting a marble from one's hand (instead of rolling it on the ground) all the way through the air and to hit solidly the marble at which it was aimed. It was an act of skill and the name came, perhaps, from the dictionary definition of the verb "plump," "to drop or cause to plunge or fall forcibly."

I appreciate your interest in the poem. It was actually a thought I had when I was a child watching an eclipse of the moon. An enclosing stamped and self addressed envelope in case it is unavailable.

With best regards and sincerely

Walter W. Stephen
Walter W. Stephen
Box 904
Anniston, Alabama

Aug. 13, 1950

Dr. Walter Jones
Ala. State Geologist
The University of Ala.,
Tuscaloosa, Ala..

Dear Mr. Jones:

Hope I am not presuming in writing to you, but I have felt for a long time as though I knew you very well because I have heard my brother, Oscar Stephen, recall so many incidents of the two summers he spent in Mexico (about 1920, 1921) on a geological job with you.

I wonder if you are familiar with, or know about, a curious place in west Florida that has come to my attention in two different ways and which surely a lot of people must know about.

The following appeared in the Mobile Press Register, Jan. 22, 1950, in "Southland Sketches" by Walter Overton:

"The south's only volcano is said to have existed in Wakulla County, Northwest Florida. From pre-historic and earliest times, down through the centuries, first Indians then whites observed a never-ceasing, towering pillar of smoke and flame billowing upwards from the dense swamps of eastern Wakulla County. No one could approach nearer than 6 or 8 miles, the mud being too wet for walking, too thick for wading, and the jagged, gnarled, impenetrable."

Several months after this I happened to hear a friend of mine, who knew nothing about the above article, tell of the following experience:

He (Dr. L. E. Morton, of Anniston, and company physician for the Monsanto Chemical Co. here) said that in 1911 or 1912, not long after he began practicing medicine, he was on a hunting trip with several friends in Florida, down below Tallahassee and in Wakulla County, at its eastern edge somewhere between the gulf and a place called Fenlew. This was SW of Fenlew, which is across the line in the county east of Wakulla County.

He says on a moonlight night they saw a glow on the sky and went toward it through almost impenetrable swamps.

Finally, after much trouble and going through mud and water almost waist deep in several places they came to the place they were looking for.

Page 2

They found a place like a crater, which he recollected was about seventyfive feet in diameter, was round and its edge was raised several feet above the ground.

There was a funnel shaped hole or crater in it, that went down to a small opening in the bottom into which they threw rocks but heard no thud or splash. The inside of this funnel was lined with what looked like crystalline quartz that glistened and shone in the moonlight and reflected the light on the sky. It was cold.

They did not stay long and, I think, felt a little afraid of the place for some reason they could not describe.

Both of the above narratives certainly pointed to the same place, which seems interesting from a geological standpoint. The crystals, of course could have been calcite or some other mineral salt.

Would appreciate it if you could advise if you ever heard of this place.

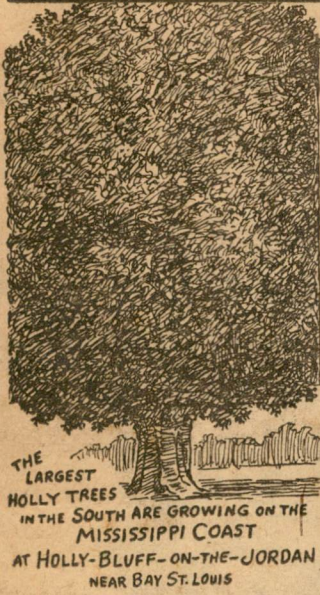
With best regards

Sincerely

Walter W. Stephen
Box 904
Anniston

SOUTHLAND SKETCHES

by Walter Overton



THE LARGEST HOLLY TREES IN THE SOUTH ARE GROWING ON THE MISSISSIPPI COAST AT HOLLY-BLUFF-ON-THE-JORDAN NEAR BAY ST. LOUIS



People now living witnessed this awe-inspiring spectacle

FORT CONDÉ

-BUILT NEARLY 250 YEARS AGO UNDER THE DIRECTION OF MOBILE'S FOUNDER, THE SIEUR DE BIENVILLE, STOOD NEAR THE RIVER'S EDGE JUST SOUTH OF GOVERNMENT STREET, WHEN ALL AROUND WAS STILL A WILDERNESS.

SKETCHED HERE IS ONE OF FORT CONDÉ'S ANCIENT CANNON WHICH NOW RESTS SERENELY ON ITS CEMENT MOUNT-BLOCK IN BIENVILLE SQUARE, MOBILE.



THIS OLD CANNON WAS KNOWN TO THE MAN WHO FOUNDED MOBILE

THE SOUTH'S ONLY VOLCANO IS SAID TO HAVE EXISTED IN WAKULLA COUNTY, NORTHWEST FLORIDA. FROM PRE-HISTORIC AND EARLIEST SPANISH TIMES, DOWN THROUGH THE CENTURIES, FIRST INDIANS THEN WHITES OBSERVED A NEVER-CEASING, TOWERING PILLAR OF SMOKE AND FLAME BILLING UPWARDS FROM THE DENSE SWAMPS OF EASTERN WAKULLA COUNTY. NO ONE COULD APPROACH NEARER THAN 6 OR 8 MILES, THE MUD BEING TOO WET FOR WALKING, TOO THICK FOR A BOAT, AND THE JUNGLELIKE GROWTH IMPENETRABLE. IN 1886 THE MYSTERY "VOLCANO" DISAPPEARED—STILL UNEXPLAINED.

Walter Overton

Museum of Natural History

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Honorary Curators

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SALENTINE, Coleoptera
T. S. HODGES, Odonata
HANSEN, Ornithology
J. L. SMITH, Conchology
T AND EXPRESS, Tuscaloosa, Alabama

reply. I knew spent much time

likely that there lightfully long Southeast.

rock slip along a antic. That sort of tion is unexpected.

lime sink is to be from "blowing caves" ed difference be- mosphere.

can come by to see

with every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

Walter B. Jones
State Geologist

WBJ:kf

Geological Survey of Alabama
Survey Staff

WALTER B. JONES, State Geologist
STEWART J. LLOYD, Asst. State Geologist
E. F. BURCHARD, Geologist
HUGH D. FALLISTER, Geologist
WINNIE McGLAMERY, Paleontologist
ROLAND M. HARPER, Geographer
ALLEN F. ARCHER, Ecology
KATHERINE FRAKER, Secretary
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FLOSSIE H. HAGLER, Typist
RUTH ROBERTSON, Stenographer
BARNEY DAVIS, Oil and Gas Inspector
MARIA MONTGOMERY, Librarian



University, Alabama

August 22, 1950

Alabama Museum of Natural History

INCORPORATED
Museum Staff

WALTER B. JONES, Director
DAVID L. DeJARNETTE, Curator
N. R. MONTGOMERY, Park Manager
BETTY SUE CLAUSEN, Secretary

Honorary Curators

ALLAN F. ARCHER, Arachnida
J. M. VALENTINE, Coleoptera
ROBERT S. HODGES, Odonata
TED JOHANSEN, Ornithology
MAXWELL SMITH, Conchology
FREIGHT AND EXPRESS, Tuscaloosa, Alabama

Mr. Walter W. Stephen
P. O. Box 904
Anniston, Alabama

Dear Mr. Stephen:

Your letter of August 13 has been received.

I have read with much interest Dr. Harper's reply. I knew he could give you a lot of information because he has spent much time in the area.

From a geological standpoint I think it unlikely that there would be a volcano in that region. It has been a frightfully long time since there has been any volcanic action in the Southeast.

The Charleston earthquake was caused by a rock slip along a fault plane out on the Continental Shelf in the Atlantic. That sort of thing is to be expected in regions where volcanic action is unexpected.

Dr. Harper's theory of air passing from a lime sink is to be seriously considered. I have seen heavy mists rise from "blowing caves" at certain seasons of the year when there was a marked difference between the temperatures of the cave air and outside atmosphere.

It was nice to hear from you. I hope you can come by to see us some time.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

Walter B. Jones
State Geologist

WBJ:kf

Geological Survey of Alabama
Survey Staff

WALTER B. JONES, State Geologist
STEWART J. LLOYD, Asst. State Geologist
E. F. BURCHARD, Geologist
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FLOSSIE H. HALGLER, Typist
RUTH ROBERTSON, Stenographer
BARNEY DAVIS, Oil and Gas Inspector
MARIA MONTGOMERY, Librarian



University, Alabama

Aug. 17, 1950.

Alabama Museum of Natural History

INCORPORATED
Museum Staff

WALTER B. JONES, Director
DAVID L. DeJARNETTE, Curator
N. R. MONTGOMERY, Park Manager
BETTY SUE CLAUSEN, Secretary

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TED JOHANSEN, Ornithology
MAXWELL SMITH, Conchology
FREIGHT AND EXPRESS, Tuscaloosa, Alabama

Mr. Walter W. Stephen,
Box 904,
Anniston, Ala.,

Dear Sir:-

Your letter of the 13th, to Dr. Walter B. Jones, inquiring about the supposed volcano in Wakulla County, Florida, has been referred to me for reply.

A good many myths about that phenomenon have been published or otherwise circulated, but only a few facts. The few facts are in publications that would hardly be accessible to you in Anniston, but I could show you some of them if you ever come here. In the meanwhile, I will give you a brief summary.

One of the myths is that the volcano disappeared in 1886, at the time of the Charleston earthquake. But evidently that is not true, for Charles L. Norton, in his "Handbook of Florida", 1891, tells of having taken compass bearings on the smoke from the top of the court-house in Tallahassee, and spent considerable time in searching for it, without success. In another edition of the same, published in 1892, he says that in March, 1891, he took a Tallahassee man with him as guide, and tried to reach the volcano, and nearly lost his life in the attempt. *(But he did not explain what happened to him.)* And later in the same season the same guide, with two other men, spent two weeks looking for it, but ^{still} without success.

That being the case, it seems rather hard to believe that a friend of yours once found a "crater" in the approximate location of the supposed volcano, on a moonlight night, when others could not find it in two weeks. It is possible, however, that ^{his} ~~their~~ "crater" was a lime-sink, that gave off some

vapor in cold weather, when its water was warmer than the air above it.

If that was the explanation, though, it should be seen every winter. When I first went to Tallahassee to work, in 1908, I soon heard about it, and found people who remembered seeing the smoke, but I believe none had seen it since about 1892. In the spring of 1910 I made a search for it myself, with another young man. We had nothing to guide us but rumors of the approximate location, and if there had been a crater or sink in the swamps we might have passed within 100 yards of it without seeing it. But we just wanted to see what kind of country it was that was so difficult to penetrate.

We found an abandoned tram-road going in the desired direction, which kept us from getting lost, but the right-of-way was so overgrown with bushes and briars that our progress was very slow. It took us over an hour to cross one swamp about a mile wide, somewhere near where the volcano should have been. It may be that some of the timber has been cut out since then, which might increase visibility, but walking through the swamps now must be about as tough as it ever was. I published a narrative of that trip, summing up everything I could find about the volcano, in a short-lived little magazine, the Florida Review, for September, 1911.

If there is anything like a crater in that neck of the woods it should be fairly easy now to locate it from an airplane. And for all I know, airplane maps may have already been made of that part of the country, as they have for many other places. If they have, Dr. Herman Gunter, state geologist of Florida, at Tallahassee, should know something about it. (He was there when I made that trip in 1910, and has been there ever since.)

Very truly yours,

R. M. Harper.
R. M. Harper.

HEADQUARTERS
WOLTERS AIR FORCE BASE, TEXAS
Office of the Commanding Officer

14 April 1953

Mr. Walter W. Stephen
Box 904
Anniston, Alabama

Dear Walter:

Nothing that has happened in the past several years could have given me as much pleasure as receiving your nice long letter of March 8th. I am indeed amazed to find that I have been dead again! The last time I heard of my death it was during World War I. I think I will have to go through Tuscaloosa and assure G. H. that I am still alive and kicking -- mostly kicking. He could have known this from George Lang, as I got a letter from George when I was stationed in Cairo. In that letter George told me he was married and told me who he married. In your letter you seem not to have heard of that.

In February 1946 I was stationed at Fort Knox, Kentucky, and took leave to take a trip by car to the Pacific Coast. I had my bride of a few months with me. Of course I made this an opportunity to come by Anniston and spent the night there one Saturday night, and drove around in the morning and went to church before going on west. That is when I saw Eugene and Frances at Church. There was no mention made of your being in Anniston or I would have made it a point to look you up.

Have just heard that Arthur Fogartie is the Pastor of a church at Jonesboro, Arkansas, and intend to write him or go through there the next time I go East -- not flying. I am interested in what you said about "Little Andy" being in the mission field. I had quite a bit to do with American missionaries of all denominations in the early part of 1942. I used government aircraft to evacuate them from the various inaccessible points in Africa, and so far have had no repercussions. Some of them I put to work for the government, and in one case put their sons in uniform.

Many years ago I saw Harry Ayers in a night club in Chicago. I got up to go over and speak to him and he had disappeared before I got over to his side of the room. I can still smell the pleasant odor of the linoleum on the floor of the library -- especially after the steam ~~was~~ just turned on in the fall. Know that you must be very interested

in your work and the fact that you are allowed to follow through with your hobbies. That must be what takes you around to Detroit and out to Idaho. Why can't you arrange to go or return from Soda Springs through Mineral Wells? I would certainly like to see you. Thank you for the two short poems. I would be most interested if you could locate any old copies of the "Predestinarian".

A few short words about what I have been doing all these years -- I went to Louisville and went to work for the Louisville Cement Company and, believe it or not, made a new cement for them. Before World War I came along I applied for admission into the aviation section of the Signal Corps as pilot officer. When there was no action on my application I went into the first Officers Training Camp at Fort Ben Harrison, Indiana. While there I received my call for pilot training and not being able to secure transfer, I resigned my commission and went into what is now the Air Force. Spent the whole war first in Illinois and later here in Texas. On my relief from duty I stayed in the Reserve, but was not satisfied to stay on in the salaried employ of the Louisville Cement Company, so on January 1, 1920, I moved to Chicago and set myself up in business. I handled the products of the Louisville Cement Company and other manufacturers of heavy building materials. I had branch offices in Detroit and Cleveland. I covered most of the middle west. Was more than mildly prosperous during that period until the depression hit, when I held on to the business and kept the employees on the payroll. In 1931 I gave up the business and turned over the Detroit office to my brother, Charles, and ~~they~~ ~~has~~ been running that office.

In 1922 I married in Chicago and have one daughter who will be 30 years old next month. Her mother died a few years ago. I think it was early in 1923 that I saw G. Horatius Yeull on one of his trips through Chicago. I only saw him for a few minutes at that time. In 1931 when I closed my building material business I was employed as consultant in finance reorganization, which was so rampant in that era, and stayed working in this capacity until I was called back to duty in the fall of 1941. During this period of ten years I found it necessary to have a home in Beverly Hills, California; Washington, New York, and for a short time in London. It was fortunate that I had my England address because it came in handy when I was sent there during the war.

When ordered to duty I was called to Washington and made the plans for the world-wide routes the Air Force is still maintaining, and on the outbreak of hostilities was sent over to the West Coast of Africa as the first Commanding Officer in that amazing and interesting continent. I covered all of Africa except the old German Southeast Africa, and commanded on both the Gold Coast and afterwards in the Congo and East Africa. My command stretched to Karachi, ~~and~~ Pakistan. I was then transferred to Cairo and stayed in the Middle East until after the campaign was cleared up, and moved to England. Was located in England, and after the invasion of France, just outside of Paris until VE Day. I came back here with a bride and was stationed in Dayton, Ohio, and then at Fort Knox. When I

tried to get out of service at Fort Knox I was sent back to New York and was only able to get relieved in 1947. I stayed in New York until just before being called back to duty again in 1951. Then I moved down to Washington. Since being on duty this time I have been stationed in Pennsylvania, back at Dayton, and now here for the last 14 months. My present wife was in the British "cloak and dagger" business, and when I left the Middle East to come to England I had her transferred there and we were married in London eight years ago this week. We have a daughter six years old and I had almost forgotten how much fun a little girl could be.

I plan to stay on duty until June 30th next year, at which time I will have to retire for age unless some emergency catches me.

It would be wonderful if you could find it possible to come by here and have a nice long visit, which I would find more satisfactory even than your newsy letter and this outline I have sent you. Give my regards to any of my old friends and, of course, to Oscar when you write. My mother is still alive and is living in Louisville near my second brother, who is also located there. I wrote her yesterday about the pleasure I had had in receiving a letter from you.

Best regards.

Very truly yours,

Phil

I have just heard that Arthur Fogarty is the Pastor of a church at Bensenville, Arkansas, and intend to write him or go through there. He was one of the men who were with me in the early part of 1942. I used government aircraft to evacuate them from the various inaccessible points in Africa, and so far have had no repercussions. Some of them I put to work for the government, and in one case got their sons in uniform.

Many years ago I saw Harry Ayers in a night club in Chicago. I got up to go over and speak to him and he had disappeared before I got over to his side of the room. I can still smell the pleasant odor of the linoleum on the floor of the military -- especially after the steam just turned on in the fall. Know that you must be very interested!

U. S. ARMY ARTILLERY AND GUIDED MISSILE CENTER MUSEUM
FORT SILL, OKLAHOMA

29 August 1957

Mr. Walter W. Stephen
24 Main Street
Oxford, Alabama

Dear Mr. Stephen:

Your letter directed to the U. S. Army Library regarding markings on old cannons has been referred to this office. To this date very little information regarding foundry and ordnance markings have been determined here. However, it is anticipated that research in the future may enlarge on the excellent data you have compiled.

The following list of markings taken from cannons on display here at the Museum is furnished in hope's that it may be of interest to you.

24 pounder, bronze field Howitzer, Model of 1859, an Austrian cannon purchased by the Confederate States by recommendation of General Lee, later captured by the Union and stored at Watervliet shows the following atop the breech "A No 1000 265
No 42 667 JS WIEN 1857"
The first three symbols are stamped, the last line is cast.

12 pounder bronze boat Howitzer, Model of 1860, U.S. from Washington Navy Yard. An anchor with rope is engraved atop the barrel at the point of the trunions. The inscription "12 PDR BOAT HOWITZER 1860 JAD DAHLGREN NO 59 428 LBS 27 PRE US NAVY WASHINGTON NO 59."

3.2 inch iron field cannon, Model of 1861, U.S., Civil War. The letters "US" appear on top of the barrel and "CCC NO 342 PI CO 1862 816 lbs " around the end of the muzzle.

3 inch rifled cannon, Whitworth (Confederate) shows the following on the ends of each trunion "Manchester Ordnance & Rifle Co CWT 0/1 9 1 WHITWORTH PATENT NO 200 1864."

12 pounder bronze boat Howitzer, Model 1863, U.S. from Washington Navy Yard. The inscription "Rifled 12 PDR BOAT HOWITZER 1863 JAD DAHLGREN US NY WASHINGTON 873 LBS 46 PRE" is on top of the barrel below an anchor with rope.

Oxford, Ala.

August 13, 1957

The Director
The Fort Pulaski National Monument
Box 204
Savannah Beach
Georgia

Dear Sir:

As an amateur interested in the history of old cannon and a former citizen of Georgia I am taking the liberty of asking you the following regarding your interesting memorial area:

1. Are there any Confederate Brooke rifled guns there?
2. If so, could you please advise what are the markings on their trunnions and muzzles?

Am sure that you are familiar with the history of the famous guns, most of which were rifled, that were designed by Captain John M. Brooke for the Confederate armed forces and which were superior to the Federal Parrott rifled guns or any other guns their calibers in the civil war. They were made at the Confederate Tredegar Iron Works at Richmond, Va., from before March 1862 to the end of the civil war and at the Confederate naval foundry at Selma from July, 1863 to near the end of the war, although none were shipped from Selma until January, 1864.

Most of them were double-banded, looking like this:

Some of the early Brooke guns from Richmond (the first ones were on the ironclad Virginia) were single-banded and a few (on the Richmond) were triple-banded.

Their rifling was by the "inclined plane" system, instead of the regular lands and grooves. A cross-section of a Brooke rifled gun looked something like this:

It resembled, a little, the teeth of a saw.

Please excuse my writing all of this, which very likely you know all about, but am noting the difference between the Brooke guns and the single-banded Parrott rifle, which looked like this, which was somewhat lighter than the Brooke gun, also the smoothbore Rodmans and Dahlgrens.

An enclosing stamped envelope for reply, which I would value beyond measure

Sincerely

Walter W. Stephen
24 Main St.
Oxford, Alabama

Walter W. Stephen
24 Main St.
Oxford, Alabama

Walter W. Stephen
750 words
24 Main St.
Oxford, Alabama

ALABAMA'S FORGOTTEN FORT
ALABAMA'S FORGOTTEN FORT

Few people in Alabama know today of an ancient Confederate fort, in a lonely land, that overlooks the Alabama River.

One great muzzle-loading cannon remains here, and that gun is, in itself, a story of Southern scientific and metallurgical accomplishment.

The place is Choctaw Bluff, listed in old steamboat schedules as 104 miles above Mobile by water. It is at the western edge of the wild and almost unsettled area in the lower part of Clarke County, Alabama, between the Tombigbee and Alabama Rivers. It is on the country estate of the Stimpson family, lumbermen of Mobile. It was formerly owned by the Carleton family.

Confederate military authorities built here, during the Civil War, a stronghold known as Fort Stonewall. It was designed to protect this approach by water to Selma and its incredible center of ordnance manufacture. Official records mention that it was existing in July, 1863.

Its half a mile of earthworks, ^{was armed} with former Federal cannon moved from the Mount Vernon Arsenal. Tradition is that there were at one time twentyseven of these pieces. As nearly half of them were said to have been of bronze it is likely that many were field guns of small caliber.

These guns seem to have been taken away and the fort abandoned when the outcome of military events in Mississippi relieved, for a time the danger of a Federal attack on Mobile.

In August, 1864, however, an enemy fleet captured the entrance to Mobile but were held there for six months by the water and land defences of the city itself.

The fort at Choctaw Bluff was re-occupied and re-armed near the end of the year. Heavy guns were brought up from Mobile. Local tradition says seven. At least two hundred members of the slave labor corps were detailed to work here and a series of rafts connected by an immense iron chain was provided to block the river.

During March, 1865, an overwhelming Federal force attacked Spanish Fort, across the bay from Mobile. Its outnumbered defenders, after three weeks of desperate resistance, evacuated it on April 8th and 9th, while General Lee was surrendering at Appomattox. Mobile capitulated on April 12th. Selma had been captured by an invading army from the other direction on April 2nd.

Confederate troops abandoned Choctaw Bluff on April 14th. United States army Major General Steele reported, on April 27th, that his forces found that the magazines had been blown up and that two heavy Brooke guns he found there were disabled by spikes driven into their touch-holes.

He describes these as "guns of a superior character". They were 7-inch Brooke rifled guns that had been made at the Confederate naval foundry at Selma, Ala., under the supervision of Commander Catesby ap R. Jones, who was already famous for having commanded the Southern ironclad Merrimac during her historic battle with the U.S. Monitor at Hampton Roads, Va., in 1862. This type of cannon was the most powerful, for its caliber, of any ordnance used during the War Between the States and had been originally designed by Confederate naval Captain John M. Brooke at the Tredegar iron Works at Richmond, Va..

The two guns at Choctaw Bluff had been cast, at Selma of charcoal iron that had been changed, in immense reverberatory furnaces, into something like steel, and heavily double-banded with the same material. Each weighed 14,800 pounds and bore the date 1864 and the unmistakable initials of Commander Catesby ap R. Jones. Both had been shipped, by steamboat, from Selma to Mobile on Jan. 6th, 1865, and had then been carried back up the river to Choctaw Bluff. One of them was moved, several decades ago, to Montgomery. It remained

at Maxwell Field for some time and is now mounted at Fort Morgan, Ala., at the entrance of Mobile Bay.

The other gun still remains at Choctaw Bluff, guarding the rolling Alabama River and listening, perhaps, for the far-away voices of young men in gray uniforms.

A government "snag boat", many years ago, recovered from the river in front of the old fort, a 6,4-inch, double-banded, Brooke rifled gun. It weighs 10,800 pounds, the date 1864 and the initials "C. ap R. J.". It had been made at the Selma naval foundry and shipped from there to Mobile on December 21, 1864. It is now located in front of the city hall at Jackson, Ala.. It was, presumably, thrown off the bluff and into the river by Confederate troops on April 14, 1865.